

BADGER STATE

SMOKE SIGNALS

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LEAGUE FILES "A PLAN FOR THE NEXT DECADE" WITH FCC

The ARRL has filed a Petition for Rule Making asking the FCC to amend its Part 97 rules to complete the Amateur Service restructuring the Commission left unfinished in 1999. The League wants the FCC to create a new entry-level license, reduce the number of actual license classes to three and drop the Morse code testing requirement for all classes except for Amateur Extra (see "ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access" ). The ARRL says its petition follows in the footsteps of changes in Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations adopted at World Radiocommunication Conference 2003. Among those changes, WRC-03 left it up to individual countries to determine whether or not to mandate Morse testing for HF access. While several countries--including Germany, the UK and Australia--already have dropped their Morse requirements, the ARRL emphasized in its petition that Morse code is not the central issue.

"Changes in Morse telegraphy are one aspect of the proposal, and it would be insufficient for the Commission to address those issues in a vacuum," the League said, calling its licensing proposal "a plan for the next decade." The ARRL said that plan's overall intention is "to encourage newcomers to the Amateur Service and to encourage those who enter its ranks to proceed further on a course of technical self-training and exposure to all aspects of the avocation."

Last fall a total of 14 Morse-related petitions were filed with the FCC. Several called on

the Commission to drop the Morse requirement altogether, while others proposed to keep and even expand the requirement or put forth various license restructuring schemes of their own. The petitions, RM-10781-10787 and RM-10805-10811, attracted thousands of comments from the amateur community.

Beyond the Morse question, the ARRL says, the time is right--now that WRC-03 has finished its work--to follow through on the restructuring process the FCC began with its 1999 restructuring Report and Order (WT 98-143) . Among other things, that landmark Order, which became effective April 15, 2000, reduced the number of Morse code test elements from three to a single 5 WPM requirement for all license classes offering HF privileges.

Simply dropping the Element 1 (5 WPM) Morse requirement, the ARRL asserted, would fail to address the critical need for an entry-level ticket other than the Technician. Calling the Technician license "a dead end" for many people, the ARRL said its proposed entry-level license--being called "Novice" for now--would offer newcomers a much wider sampling of Amateur Radio. It would require passing a 25-question written examination--but no code test--and offer limited HF phone, image, CW and data

privileges at modest power output levels. "This structure provides a true, entry-level license with HF and other operating privileges which will both promote growth in the Amateur Service and integrate newcomers into the main-

stream of Amateur Radio," the ARRL told the FCC. "It will better introduce newcomers to more seasoned licensees who will assist them."

The League proposal also would consolidate current Technician and General licensees into General class without further examination. Future General applicants would not have to pass a code test, but the written exam would remain the same. Current Advanced licensees would be merged into Amateur Extra class without further testing, and the Extra exam would remain intact. The ARRL proposal would retain the Element 1 Morse exam for Extra class applicants.

The ARRL said its overall plan dovetails with the FCC philosophy and goals stated in its 1999 Report and Order--to simplify the license structure and streamline the licensing process. The League said its plan would implement licensing requirements and privileges that are in harmony with each other and is designed to attract and retain "technically inclined persons,

particularly the youth of our country" and encourage them to advance in areas "where the United States needs expertise."

"Now, the issue is not merely whether there should or should not be Morse telegraphy as an examination requirement," the ARRL said, "but rather what is the best overall approach for positioning the Amateur Service for future growth and incentive-based self-training."

A copy of the ARRL's Petition for Rule Making is available on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/news/restructuring2/restrux2-petition.pdf>. The FCC has requested that individuals refrain from contacting or attempting to comment to the FCC on the ARRL's restructuring proposal before the FCC issues a Rule Making (RM) number for the ARRL petition and invites public comments on it. Until that happens, it is premature to comment to the FCC.

-ARRL Letter, 1/30/2004.

Flipping the pages

A plan for the next decade.....	1
What's Happening, Swapfests .....	2
Club Meetings .....	2
The Test Point - VE examinations .....	2
Wisconsin Nets Association .....	4
The Computer Corner, Stan Kaplan .....	5
Monthly Wisconsin Section News .....	5
Mancorad Radio Club .....	6
Wisconsin Valley Radio Association .....	6
Cedarburg Swapfest .....	7
Finding Electrical Interference Big Time.....	8
MARA Swapfest .....	8
SEWFARS Swapfest.....	9
The Wisconsin Packeteer .....	10
Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club .....	11
AES Superfest .....	11

Check us out on the web at  
[Http://www.bssts.org](http://www.bssts.org)



# WHAT’S HAPPENING

## Swapfests and Other Social Events — Club Meetings Amateur Radio Exam Schedules

Edited by Kenneth A. Ebnetter, K9EN, 822 Wauona Trail, Portage WI 53901 — [kenneth.ebnetter@verizon.net](mailto:kenneth.ebnetter@verizon.net)

### Swapfests And Other Social Events

April 2 & 3, 2004, AES SUPERFEST, April 02 2004, 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. April 03 2004, 9: 00a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Amateur Electronic Supply, Milwaukee, WI contact: [aesham.com](http://aesham.com)

April 18, 2004, Madison Area Repeater Association Swapfest, Stoughton, WI. See flyer on page 9 last issue for more information.

April 25, 2004. SEWFARS at Richfield Chalet, 1271 Hwy. 175, Hubertus WI. For information contact: SEWFARS, PO Box 105, Eagle, WI 53119, [sewfars@hotmail.com](mailto:sewfars@hotmail.com) or (262) 742-4903

May 01, 2004, Cedarburg, WI. 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Amateur Radio and Computer Swapfest, Ozaukee Radio Club (ORC). Circle B Recreation Center, intersection of State Highway 60 and Ozaukee County Highway I. Info: Gene Szudrowitz, (262) 377-3792 between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. or [www.qsl.net/orc/swap.html](http://www.qsl.net/orc/swap.html).

July 10, 2004. South Milwaukee Swapfest '04. 9327 South Shepard Ave., Oak Creek, WI. Contact: (414) 762-3235. e-mail: [ry-atex@aol.com](mailto:ry-atex@aol.com)

August 14, 2004 Circus City Swapfest, Baraboo, WI.

August 15, 2004. Summerfest 2004, Amana, IA. Information: Darrel Peterson, WA0KHH, 7421 Commune Ct. Cedar Rapids, IA 52411. (319) 393-8667. [www.cvarc.rf.org](http://www.cvarc.rf.org)

September 11, 2004. Eau Claire ARC Swapfest, Eau Claire, WI

September 18th & 19th. RADIO EXPO 2004 at the Lake County Fairgrounds in Grayslake IL.

September 17-18-19, 2004. Peoria Superfest, Exposition Gardens Fairgrounds, 1601 W Northmoor Rd, off N. University, Peoria, IL. Contact: Peoria Superfest, PO Box 3508 Peoria, IL 61612-3508. (309) 692-2378. e-mail: [w9uvi@arrl.net](mailto:w9uvi@arrl.net). <http://www.peoriasuperfest.com>.

November 7, 2004. Fox Cities Amateur Radio Club 2004 Swapfest. Waverly Beach, N8870 Fire Lane 1, Menasha, WI. Contact: W9ZL, Swapmeet, 163 Main St. , Menasha, WI 54952. [www.w9zl.org](http://www.w9zl.org) e-mail [N9RJZ@tponet.com](mailto:N9RJZ@tponet.com).

January 8, 2004, Waukesha, WI  
33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Midwinter Swapfest, sponsored by the West Allis RAC. Waukesha County Expo Center Forum, Waukesha, WI. For information contact: [www.warac.org](http://www.warac.org), WARAC Swapfest, PO Box 1072, Milwaukee, WI 53201.



We are unable to include the full listing of club meetings in The Wisconsin area in every printed edition of BSSS. Please see the October 2003 issue of BSSS for the full listing of club meetings in the area. A full listing is also on the extra web pages this issue, and also on our web site [bsss.org](http://bsss.org) If there are any changes or corrections please let Ken K9EN know. See the addresses below.

The following additions and corrections have been received since the last full listing:

Fort Atkinson  
TRI-COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
second Thursday monthly except June to August, 7 p.m., at Dwight Foster Public Library in Fort Atkinson. ARES Net each Wednesday evening at 8 and club net Monday evenings at 8 on 145.49 repeater. Contact: Glenn Eisenbrandt, WA9VYL, 920.563.6502, or John Satterlee

Manitowoc  
MANITOWOC COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS (ManCoRad) Second Wednesday of each month. Club board meets at 6:30 p.m., and Regular meeting is at 7:30 p.m., at 1105 Fleetwood Drive, 2nd floor (Old County Shop building on northwest side of city.) For Additional information please see our club web-site [www.qsl.net/w9dk](http://www.qsl.net/w9dk) or contact Fred Neuenfeldt, W6BSF, (920) 682-9312. Email: [w6bsf@arrl.net](mailto:w6bsf@arrl.net).

### The Test Point



#### Amateur Radio Examination Locations and Schedules in the Area

April 03, 2004	Madison, WI
April 03, 2004	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
April 03, 2004	Racine, WI
April 03, 2004	St Paul, MN
April 08, 2004	Apple Valley, MN
April 10, 2004	Blaine, MN
April 10, 2004	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
April 12, 2004	Menomonie, WI
April 17, 2004	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
April 17, 2004	Loves Park, IL
April 17, 2004	Cottage Grove, MN
April 20, 2004	Eden Prairie, MN
April 24, 2004	Portage, WI
April 24, 2004	Bloomington, MN
April 24, 2004	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
April 24, 2004	Tomahawk, WI
May 01, 2004	Madison, WI
May 01, 2004	Racine, WI
May 01, 2004	St. Paul, MN
May 08, 2004	Adams, WI
May 08, 2004	Onalaska, WI
May 08, 2004	Blaine, MN
May 08, 2004	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
May 13, 2004	Apple Valley, MN
May 15, 2004	Loves Park, IL
May 15, 2004	Cottage Grove, MN
May 18, 2004	Eden Prairie, MN
May 22, 2004	Bloomington, MN
May 29, 2004	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
May 29, 2004	Tomahawk, WI
June 05, 2004	Madison, WI
June 05, 2004	Racine, WI
June 05, 2004	St. Paul, MN
June 12, 2004	Blaine, MN
June 12, 2004	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
June 15, 2004	Eden Prairie, MN
June 16, 2004.	Bloomington, MN
June 17, 2004	Apple Valley, MN
June 19, 2004	Loves Park, IL
June 19, 2004.	Cottage Grove, MN
June 26, 2004	Tomahawk, WI
July 03, 2004	Madison, WI
July 03, 2004	St. Paul, MN
July 08, 2004	Apple Valley, MN
July 10, 2004	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
July 10, 2004	Blaine, MN
July 17, 2004	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
July 17, 2004	Loves Park, IL
July 17, 2004	Cottage Grove, MN
July 20, 2004	Eden Prairie, MN
July 24, 2004	Bloomington, MN
July 31, 2004	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
July 31, 2004	Tomahawk, WI

## Badger State Smoke Signals

### Amateur Radio Education and Information

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**EDITORIAL BOARD:** Ken Ebnetter, K9EN; Don Evenson, K9JYX.

### Subscription Rate

1 year (6 issues—bi-monthly)\$13.95

A subscription form is in this issue. Special club package reduced rates are available. For information, contact Ken Ebnetter, K9EN.

### When to Send It

The closing date for each issue is the first of the month before the issue date. For example, the closing date for the May issue is April 1. The only exception is for participating clubs' minutes. Participating clubs are requested to send their material no later than FIVE DAYS after the club's meeting. For example, if a club meets on the 4th of the month, the material should be sent no later than the 9th of that month. This material is to be sent to the Editor.

### Where to Send It

Address changes and corrections, and exchange papers should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Editorial material, photographs, and feature articles should be sent to Ken Ebnetter, K9EN.

Web page material should be sent to [n9qa@arrl.net](mailto:n9qa@arrl.net) (Dave Knaus, N9QA).

Inquiries about advertising should be directed to Ken Ebnetter.

Club, swapfest, and Test Point information should be sent to Ken Ebnetter.

Swapfest ADS should be sent to Ken Ebnetter, K9EN no later than eight weeks before the

#### events date.

Subscriptions should be sent, with check or money order, to Ken Ebnetter.

#### Conditions for Reprinting or BBS Posting Material from Badger State Smoke Signals

Permission is hereby granted to reprint articles or posting articles on radio or telephone bulletin boards from *Badger State Smoke Signals*, providing credit is given to the original author, publication in which the article first appeared, and to *Badger State Smoke Signals*.

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### Editorial Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in editorials, guest editorials, columns, articles, and letters from readers are the opinions of the authors only, and do not, unless otherwise stated, express or imply endorsement by *Badger State Smoke Signals*, or by any other individual or organization.

(Continued from page 2)

August 07, 2004	Madison, WI
August 07, 2004	St. Paul, MN
August 12, 2004	Apple Valley, MN
August 14, 2004	Blaine, MN
August 14, 2004	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
August 17, 2004	Eden Prairie, MN
August 21, 2004	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
August 21, 2004	Loves Park, IL
August 21, 2004	Cottage Grove, MN
August 28, 2004	Bloomington, MN
August 28, 2004	Tomahawk, WI
September 11, 2004	Onalaska, WI
October 23, 2004	Portage, WI
November 06, 2004	Menomonie, WI
November 13, 2004	Onalaska, WI

Monthly, 1st Sat.	Madison, WI
Monthly, 1st Sat.	Racine, WI
(except Jan., Jul., & Aug.)	
Monthly, 1st Sat.	St. Paul, MN
Monthly, 2nd Thu.	Apple Valley, MN
Monthly, 2nd Sat.	Blaine, MN
Monthly, 2nd Sat.	Oshkosh (Omro), WI
Monthly, 3rd Tue.	Eden Prairie, MN
Monthly, 3rd Sat.	Milwaukee, WI (BE)
(September through April)	
Monthly, 3rd Sat.	Loves Park, IL
Monthly, 3rd Sat.	Cottage Grove, MN
Monthly, 4th Sat.	Bloomington, MN
Monthly, Last Sat.	Milwaukee, WI (MRAC)
(except Mar., Jun., Aug., & Dec.)	
Monthly, Last Sat.	Tomahawk, WI
(January thru October only)	

GENERAL RULES FOR MOST EXAMINATIONS: Be sure to check with sponsors before going to an examination session. There may be changes and/ or errors in the dates or information given. Some examinations require filing an FCC or NCVEC Form 605 and advance registration at least 30 days before the exam date. Some VE teams permit walkins. Check with the sponsor.

Many hamfests and swapfests offer examinations. A Hamfest entrance fee should not be charged if you come only to attend the examination. To register in advance, you must get a copy of the current FCC Form 605, and fill it out completely and correctly. Get your form from the FCC as instructed below, or from the American Radio Relay League, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111. Please send an SASE if you request a form from the League. FCC Field Offices seldom stock forms. You can also get a form from

<http://www.fcc.gov/formpage.html>  
or  
<ftp://ftp.fcc.gov/pub/Forms/Form605>.

A form by FAX is available at (202) 418-0177 (request Form 000605). The FCC Forms Distribution Center will accept orders at (800) 418-3676. Form 605 has a main form, plus a Schedule D with two parts (for Vanity and Physician's Certifications). Forms can also be obtained from the sponsoring group.

See QST, WIAW bulletins, or The ARRL Letter regarding any annual exam fee changes. ARRL/ VEC no longer gives a free code test or Element 2. Test fees: The ARRL/VEC has set its 2004 test fee at \$12.00. FCC requires applicants to show their original amateur license or CSCE to the VE team. You must also have a good copy of your license or CSCE. A copy of your license or CSCE must be attached to your FCC form 605 and most VE teams need a copy for their records. One good CSCE copy is sufficient. You are also be required to have a photo ID, or two other forms of ID. Contact the VE team for details.

Technician class licensees must show proof of testing before March 21, 1987, in order to upgrade to General with a code test only. Proof must be either in the form of a pre-3/21/87 license document or a "Letter of Verification of Technician License Held Prior to 1987" as requested in writing from the FCC, 1270 Fairfield Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325-7245. For those with internet access, a listing of exam sessions is available from:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/examsearch.phtml>

By checking this page, you can find registered VE sessions anywhere in the US and some overseas. You can search by country, state or zip code. The listing is not specific to any particular VEC. It is a master database. Thanks to Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, ARRL/VEC.

Adams, WI  
Adams County Library, 101 S. Main St., Adams, WI Saturday, May 8 at 1:00 pm. Enter from the Center St. entrance. Walk-ins are welcome. For information contact: Ed Wagner at Email: [ab9fn@arrl.net](mailto:ab9fn@arrl.net). All ARRL rules, regulations and conditions apply to testing.

Appleton, WI  
Fox Cities ARC (ARRL/VEC) All regular test sessions are held at the American Red Cross Building in Appleton. Testing starting at 8 a.m. No walk-ins after 9 a.m. For information, contact George R. Croy, W9MDP, 2113 Twin Willows Drive, Appleton, WI 54914. (920) 730-0967. Email: [w9mdp@arrl.net](mailto:w9mdp@arrl.net).

Eau Claire, WI  
Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club.  
South Middle School, North East side door 7, 2115 Mitscher Ave, Eau Claire, WI  
Eau Claire Hamfest. Held at Eau Claire Exposition Center, Lorch Avenue, Eau Claire.  
Technician, General and Extra Class exams. Walkins welcome.  
Examination session coordinator: Steve Bluem, KA9OMY, [ka9omy@arrl.net](mailto:ka9omy@arrl.net). Telephone: 715-839-6509. [www.ecarc.org](http://www.ecarc.org). [w9eau@ecarc.org](mailto:w9eau@ecarc.org).

Fond du Lac, WI  
Fond du Lac ARC (ARRL/VEC). Community United Methodist Church, 701 Minnesota Ave., North Fond du Lac. 9:00 a.m. Walk-ins allowed. Contact: Douglas J. Schultz, 920-922-3088, [schultz74@charter.net](mailto:schultz74@charter.net).

Mauston, WI  
The Juneau county Amateur Radio Club will be conducting a exam session on December 20, 2003, at 9:30 am, at Mauston City Hall, 303 Manison Street, 4th floor Community room. Prior to the session, some of the VE's and members will be having breakfast at Hearty Platter on hwy 82. All are welcome. Contact Ed Wagner AB9FN, at [AB9FN@ARRL.net](mailto:AB9FN@ARRL.net) or Mark Miller W9MKM (608)-847-7571), or at [W9MKM@yahoo.com](mailto:W9MKM@yahoo.com). Walk-ins are welcome.

Madison, WI  
First Saturday monthly: 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Space Place, 1605 South Park Street, Madison. Please bring a picture ID, your original license, a copy of your license, and the original and a copy of any relevant CSCEs, and a check for \$10.00 made out to the ARRL/VEC. No appointments are necessary to take exams. Exams start promptly at 8 a.m. Questions may be directed to Tim Czerwonka, WO9U, at 608-239-3696 (home phone) or sent to [wo9u@arrl.net](mailto:wo9u@arrl.net).

Marshfield, WI (ARRL/VEC)  
Sponsored by the Marshfield Area ARS. 6:00 p.m. (walk-in allowed). :pcatopm: St. Joseph’s Hospital, 611 St. Joseph Ave., Room 124, Hospice Self Bldg, Marshfield, WI. Contact: Lee A. Olson, (715) 389-888. e-mail: [lolson@t2net.com](mailto:lolson@t2net.com).

Medford, WI (ARRL/VEC)  
Sponsored by the Taylor County Area Amateur Radio Club (ARRL/VEC affiliated). Testing for all classes, Technician through Extra. Registration starts at 7:30 PM, testing starts at 8:00 PM. Location: the conference room of the Medford Public Library, 400 N. Main St., Medford, WI. From the intersection of State Hwys. 13 and 64, proceed west on Hwy. 64 to Main St. Turn north on Main St. and take Main St. to the library. Talk-in on the 147.15(+600 kHz, 114.8 Hz PL) repeater. Walk-ins welcome, however, if you know you'll be attending, it would be appreciated if

you call ahead. Contact: Tom Hrdina, N9GEN, 2373 Willow Ave., Medford, WI 54451, phone (715) 748-4054 or e-mail to Mike, N9GHZ, at [mds54449@yahoo.com](mailto:mds54449@yahoo.com).

Menominee, MI  
Marinette-Menominee Amateur Radio Club. Location: The cafeteria of Bay Area Med Center, US-41 in Menominee. Building located next to KFC just off the Interstate Bridge. All classes given. Advance notice preferred, but not required. Test fee is \$10 with two pieces of identification required. Contact Jeff Rymer, N9PQU at [jrymer@ez-net.com](mailto:jrymer@ez-net.com) or Ed Engleman, KG8CX, at [dxer@cybrzn.com](mailto:dxer@cybrzn.com). We will monitor the 147.000 (107.2 pl) repeater in event further directions or info is needed.

March 20, November 16, 2004  
Menomonie, WI  
ARRL/VEC. Location: NEWUW-Stout Communications, Millennium Hall, Broadway & 10th Ave., Menomonie, WI. Contact: James P. Ley, 715-235-3998.

Feb 9, March 15, April 12, 2004  
Menomonie WI  
University of Wisconsin-Stout Amateur Radio Club (<http://www.uwsarc.org> <<http://www.uwsarc.org/>>) is sponsoring (W5YI-VEC affiliated) Amateur Radio licensing exams. Location: 213 Fryklund Hall, UW-Stout Campus, Menomonie WI. Time: 5:00pm-6:00pm (Walk-ins welcomed) For further information contact:, John Burningham (WB8PUF), 715-232-5610

Milwaukee, WI  
Badger Examiners (W5YI VEC) September thru April, every third Saturday morning, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Badger Examiners group tests at AES (Amateur Electronic Supply) at 60th and Good Hope, Milwaukee (use the entrance numbered 5730). Exams are given at the old Sterman Printing shop, just 300 feet west of the AES store. Novice to Extra are offered, and all test materials are provided. Fee is \$10.00, and bring your original license, or CSCE if needed. Also available are Commercial license exams GROL (General Radiotelephone license), GMDSS, Telegraph, Etc. Fee is \$35.00. For more information call Gary Sharbuno, W19M at (414) 355-0237.

Milwaukee, WI  
Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club (MRAC VEC) Last Saturday, except in March, June, August, and December. In addition, we test at the West Allis RAC Swapfest in January and at Superfest in April. 9:30 a.m. to noon at Amateur Electronic Supply (AES), 5710 W. Good Hope Road (the door you enter is actually numbered 5730), Milwaukee. For additional information, call (262) 797-MRAC. Bring along your original license, CSCE (if any), and one (1) good quality photocopy of each, plus two forms of identification, such a driver's license, etc. Also required is \$8.00 for the exam fee. Walkins are welcome. To register in advance, use a post card. Print the grade of license you are applying for, your name, address, and telephone number, and send the card to MRAC/VEC, Milwaukee Radio Amateurs Club, P.O. Box 070695, Milwaukee, WI 53207. Contact: John G. Kraak, 262-797-6722.

Onalaska, WI  
Riverland ARC (ARRL/VEC). 9:00 a.m. Onalaska Public Library, 741 Oak Street, Onalaska, WI. Contact: Roger Reader, KA9BKK, 608-783-0723, [readers@centurytel.net](mailto:readers@centurytel.net).

Oshkosh, WI (Omro)  
Oshkosh VE Team Amateur Radio exams monthly on the first Saturday. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and exams will be given from 9 a.m. until noon. Omro Community Center, 130 W. Larrabee, Omro, WI. Walkins welcomed. Bring a good quality photocopy of your original license and any other necessary documents such as a CSCE, etc. The first session will be through W5YI/VEC, and then sessions will alternate between ARRL/VEC and W5YI/VEC.

The exam fee is \$6.65. For more information, please call Dick Lemme, K9FA, at (920) 235-0987, e-mail: [lemme@vbe.com](mailto:lemme@vbe.com), or write Dick at 826 Jefferson Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901.

Portage, WI  
ARRL / VEC Amateur testing on April 24, July 24, and Oct. 23, 2004. Testing will begin at 9:00 AM at the John Roche Building 403 Jackson St. Portage, WI. Talk-in freq. is 146.520 MHz. For more information contact Brian Smith, KG9OG at 608-742-4562 or Ed Wagner, AB9FN at [ab9fn@arrl.net](mailto:ab9fn@arrl.net). Walk-ins are welcome.

Racine, WI  
ARRL VEC Monthly - first Saturday, except January, July, and August. Monthly exams are given 9 to 11 a.m. at the Faith United Methodist Church, 1013 Harmony Drive, Racine. Walk-ins are permitted. Talk in on 147.87/27. Inquiries and registrations should be directed to Paul B. Smedegaard, N9RGW, 929 Lathrop Ave., Racine, WI 53405-2339. Telephone: (262) 637 4750. or e-mail to [smedegaa@wi.net](mailto:smedegaa@wi.net).

Sheboygan, WI  
VE testing dates in Sheboygan County, Wisconsin, for 2003 will be according to the following schedule:  
Saturdays 8:30 AM, 10, 13 September  
Tuesdays 6:30 PM, 18 March, 15 July. 18 November

Sheboygan County ARC (ARRL/VEC). Exams are held in the Red Cross Building, 2032 Erie Avenue, Sheboygan, WI. The test areas are handicap accessible with signage posted to direct candidates to the proper area of the building. Walk-ins are accepted, however notification ahead of time of your intention to appear would be appreciated.  
Contact: Art Pahr K9XJ 920-876-2370  
N8029 Willow Road k9xj@arrl.net  
Plymouth, WI 53073-2929

Shell Lake, WI  
NORWESCO ARES/RACES (ARRL/VEC). Washburn County Law Enforcement Center, lower level meeting room, 421 Hwy 63, Shell Lake. Walk-ins allowed. This is for all classes of license. Persons wishing to upgrade an existing license should bring a photocopy of it to submit. Also need a photo ID to prove who you are. The fee is \$10.00. Contact: Richard J. Eckenrode, 715-466-4109. Email: [cen34109@centurytel.net](mailto:cen34109@centurytel.net). Web Site: [fp1.centurytel.net/norwesco/](http://fp1.centurytel.net/norwesco/).

Tomahawk, WI  
Tomahawk ARRL VE Team (ARRL/VEC). Last Saturday of every month, January thru October. Registration at 8:30 a.m. and testing starts at 9:00 a.m. For location or other information, inquire on 145.43 MHz. repeater or contact: Terry Collins, KB9AUP, W6564 Highway 8, Tomahawk, WI 54487. Telephone (715) 453-4633, [dcollins@newnorth.net](mailto:dcollins@newnorth.net).

Waukesha, WI  
Saturday, January 3, 2004. Held at AMF Waukesha Lanes, Near EXPO. (WARAC Midwinter Swapfest.

St. Paul, MN  
Saint Paul Radio Club (SPRC) First Saturday of the month, 8:30 a.m. Test Site: St. Paul Technical College, 235 Marshall Ave., St Paul, MN. Ed Van-Cleave, W0VC, (612) 636-0108. [www.qsl.net/sprc/index.html](http://www.qsl.net/sprc/index.html).

Rockford, IL  
Northern Illinois Volunteer Examiners (W5YI VEC) Third Saturday of every month. 9:00 a.m. to noon. No new applicants after 11:00 a.m. Walkins welcome. Held at North Suburban District Library, 6340 North Second St. (Hwy. 251), Loves Park, IL. Rusty Cordell, WB9QYV, 1823 Hulin St., Rockford, IL 61102-2619. (815) 968-0080. e-mail: [WB9QYV@aol.com](mailto:WB9QYV@aol.com).



# Wisconsin Nets Association Ltd.

Dean R. Herriges, KB9ROB, Secretary  
W370 S9590 Highway 67 • Eagle, WI 53119

## WISCONSIN NETS

Net	WNA	Freq.	UTC	LOCAL	Manager
BWN	YES	3985	1100	0600	W9RCW
BEN	YES	3985	1700	1200	KE9VU
WSBN	YES	3985	2215	1715	N9ZET
WNN	YES	3723	2300	1800	KB9ROB
WSSN	YES	3645	2330	1830	WA9ZTY
WIN/E	YES	3662	0000	1900	WB9ICH
WIN/L	YES	3662	0300	2200	W9UW
RCRA	NO	01/61	0030	1930	KA9OMC
(Mondays CDT— Menomonie Area)					
Green Bay Area	NO	72/12	0245	2145	WB9NRK
ARES	NO	4.65/5.25	0200	2100	
(South East/South Central Wisconsin)					

### STM Report Wisconsin Section January 2004

FAQ # 19 - What’s a “break” in a message?  
Between the addressee’s info and the text, an operator will say “Break” (or send BT on CW) to indicate that there’s a space. This might also be a good time to interrupt the sender to ask for fills in the preamble or address. After the text, the sender says “Break” (sends BT) again to indicate there’s a space between the text and the signature. When counting the check, it’s the words between the breaks that are counted.

FAQ #20 – Why do some stations take traffic for delivery if it’s not a local call?  
Have you noticed that there are stations on our section nets who pick up traffic for hard-to-get-to places and make those deliveries? You might hear W9BHL or K9UTQ or others take such messages. Their decision to invest their time and some telephone expense to help the National Traffic System keeps the traffic flowing and often encourages ham recipients to join the ranks of traf- fic handlers as well. Special thanks are due to those who help us in this special way.

FAQ #21 – What’s an ORS and why should I be one?  
If you are an ARRL member who is willing to handle traffic, as evidenced by your reading this column, why not apply for an appointment as an Official Relay Station? You would be asked to

handle traffic or check in with traffic nets when your schedule permits and report your monthly activity to your STM via radiogram. This helps us keep track of those who specialize in traffic handling and on whom we can rely in times of need. We offer free on-the-job training. You can request an application from W9IXG or K9LGU.

We’re off to a good start in 2004. The section nets are increasing in size and activity. New calls are being heard. If you hear a new call a few times, why not send a welcome radiogram? Opera- tors are asking questions about message format and routing. Please ask! Net membership certificates are being issued. Check in 30 of 90 sessions and send a radiogram to the Net Manager asking for a certificate. Let’s continue the trend.

As we continue to get more train- ing in traffic handling by following the format, by listening to good traffic han- dlers, by following net protocol, let’s not forget why we’re doing all this. Not only is it fun, but it’s a public service. We train now so that when we are asked to serve the public in an emergency, we’ll not only know what we’re doing – we’ll know how to do things well.

### WISCONSIN SECTION STM REPORT FEBRUARY 2004

FAQ # 22 How does a net con- trol station count traffic on the net? All traffic is counted one at a time. When a piece of traffic is offered on a net, it is counted as “listed.” That means, when W9CBE says he has a message for Bay-

field, the net control counts it as one piece offered. When that message is sent to W9BHL, it is counted as one piece cleared. The total of those cleared are sent to the net manager. If the total of pieces offered is included, the NM can determine a bit about the efficiency of the net.

In the above example, if W9BHL can’t hear W9CBE, it might necessitate a relay by W9KKM. In this case, the message is counted twice – just as if it is listed again and cleared. Even when the NCS sends a net report to the Net Man- ager at the end of a net, that message counts as one listed and one cleared.

If W9YCV checks in with a book of 5 messages going “thru,” it counts as five offered – even though the texts are identical. When those messages are sent to KA9RZL to take to WIN (and then to Ninth Region), it counts as 5 passed. If all five had to be relayed by W9SD (due to weird skip), they’d be counted again.

Generally, we deal with only Routine traffic. If Welfare, Priority, or Emergency traffic were listed, that would be tallied separately by the NCS.

We count the activity on a net to measure its effectiveness. There are a number of variables that should be con- sidered when we look at a net’s statis- tics – conditions, liaison to other nets, time of day, mode, urgency of traffic, and locations of those checking in. Still, it’s good to know that traffic is being passed efficiently, so we get the training we need and will be ready in times of need. We count because folks are counting on us. – 73, K9LGU/ STM

Check us out on the web at [Http://www.bsss.org](http://www.bsss.org)

### MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY SUMMARY January 2004

NET	QNI	QTC	QTR	SSNS	NM
BWN	1335	1700	2515	31	W9IXG
BEN	593	93	916	31	KE9VU
WSBN	928	132	1253	31	K9FHI
WNN	212	26	372	31	KB9ROB
WSSN	247	31	353	31	WA9ZTY
WIN/E	252	74	331	31	WB9ICH
WIN/L	232	60	415	31	W9UW
WRACES 104	0	179	4	N6NKO	
totals	3903	2116	6334	221	
MIDWEST CLASSIC RADIO NET QNI 192 QTR 985 MINS IN 5 SSNS					

### STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY January 2004

STATION ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	TOTAL	
K9JPS	0	335	33	320	688
N9VE	0	210	43	194	447
W9IHW	0	170	32	156	358
W9CBE	0	138	138	4	280
K9LGU	0	82	55	1	138
K9FHI	0	64	65	1	130
AG9G	0	40	82	0	122
WA9ZTY 0	45	54	5	104	
W9SWL	0	15	47	7	69
W9BHL	0	11	38	5	54
KE9VU	0	21	24	0	45
W9UW	0	32	8	0	40
N8JAT	2	13	11	8	34
K9UTQ	0	14	4	14	32
KB9ROB	0	27	2	3	32
K9GU	0	0	31	0	31
KG9B	0	2	24	0	26
KA9RZL	0	14	10	2	26
WB9ICH	0	21	3	0	24
W9RSX	0	2	11	2	15
AA9BB	0	0	15	0	15
WD9FLJ	1	7	3	1	12
W9PVD	0	5	4	2	11
KN9P	0	4	5	0	9

### P S H R SUMMARY January 2004

CALL	1	2	3	4	5	6	T
N9VE	38	40	30	310	0	0	418
K9JPS	37	40	10	90	0	0	177
WA9ZTY	40	40	30	10	40	0	160
AG9G	40	40	20	30	0	0	130
KG9B	28	28	20	50	0	0	126
K9LGU	40	40	20	10	0	0	110
W9BHL	40	40	30	0	0	0	110
WB9KEG	40	38	20	0	0	10	108
KA9RZL	40	26	30	10	0	0	106
N8JAT	40	34	20	10	0	0	104
K9FHI	40	40	20	0	0	0	100
W9CBE	40	40	20	0	0	0	100
WD9FLJ	40	12	10	0	0	10	72
W9RSX	40	15	10	0	0	0	65

### MONTHLY NET ACTIVITY SUMMARY February 2004

NET	QNI	QTC	QTR	SSNS	NM
BWN	1418	1640	2358	29	W9IXG
BEN	563	100	886	29	KE9VU
WSBN	804	116	1068	29	K9FHI
WNN	218	21	338	26	KB9ROB
WSSN	208	25	324	29	WA9ZTY
WIN/E	218	149	309	29	WB9ICH
WIN/L	192	65	392	29	W9UW
WRACES 147	1	251	5	N6NKO	
totals	3768	2117	5926	205	
MIDWEST CLASSIC RADIO NET AM QNI 149 QTR 493MIN 4 SESSIONS - WA9ZTY					

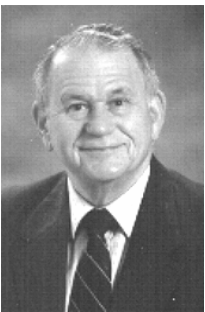
### STATION ACTIVITY SUMMARY February 2004

STATION ORIG	RCVD	SENT	DLVD	TOTAL
K9JPS	0	411	31	825 - BPL
N9VE	0	178	34	382 – BPL*
W9IHW	0	140	28	321 – BPL*
W9CBE	0	119	130	3
K9FHI	0	77	94	0
K9LGU	9	94	64	2

(Continued on page 9)

# The Computer Corner

By Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR • 105 Martin Drive  
Port Washington, WI 53074-9654  
(262) 284-9346  
Skaplan@mcw.edu



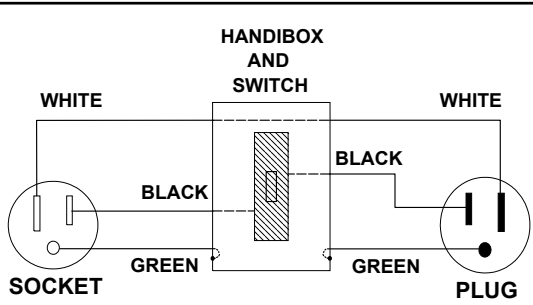
## No. 114. A Remote Switch For Your Powerstrip

Here is an idea that I have been using for years. One night over pizza, I told Sky Borgen-hagen (N9XRU) about it, and he suggested I write it up for the column. It solves part of the problem of the tangle of wires and power strips under your computer desk.

The problem is partially a functional one, best explained by what I do when I want to turn on my computer. Almost all wires and cables are neatly tucked out of sight on the floor at the back of my desk, near the wall. To start up, I flip one switch, mounted in a handibox attached to the leg of my desk near the floor. That turns on the monitor, the power cube that supplies the speakers, the desk lamp, and it supplies power to the computer (though the computer does not start yet). Then I press the on/off switch on the front of the computer and it begins the boot process. Two switches start everything.

Well, you say, I can do that with my surge suppressor power strip. Yes, you can. But invariably, all power strips have the switch mounted at the end of the strip where the power cord enters. Now that might be good engineering practice – turn the power on and off right where the electrical cable enters the strip. But it sure does make for a mess under the desk, because the strip and every plug that plugs into it has to be close enough so that you can reach the switch, which makes it and the cords visible and a mess. Wouldn't it be nice to have a remote switch to do all that? A single detached switch that controls the power strip itself? Then you can stow the power strip and all associated cables away under the back part of the desk. So, here is how you can do that.

Buy a three-wire plug (it plugs in the wall), a socket (the powerstrip plugs into it), a metal handibox with switch plate, a standard SPST 15 amp switch and a few feet of three-wire power cord (AWG 16 or larger). Wire as shown. The white wire simply goes through the box without connecting to anything inside. Be sure there is a good bond between the two green wires and the metal of the handibox. When wiring the plug and socket, just remember this: the black wire goes to the gold or brass-colored screw, and the white wire goes to the silver-colored screw. Of course, the green wire goes to the green screw. Be sure to get this all correct, for safety!



Now, mount the handibox to a conveniently reached leg of your desk. If you have a wood desk, simply screw it to a leg before you wire the switch. If your desk is metal or if you don't want to use screws, run a plastic cable tie or two through the holes in the back of the handibox and use them to anchor the assembly to the leg. Now plug the power strip into the socket and the plug into the wall. Neatly dress the power cords coming from the handibox back, out of sight, and tuck away the power strip and all other wires. Voila! Happy computing!

cost of meal, tips and the use of the hall. If you have door prize or "surprise" package you'd like to donate, bring them along.

Take time to review the Chapter 55 photo albums to remember past gatherings and some who are silent keys.

Send your reservations to Ted Stiller, WA9RDI, Treas., 4648 n. 90th St., Milwaukee, WI 53225-4904.

Check us out on the web at  
[Http://www.bssts.org](http://www.bssts.org)

## WISCONSIN SECTION MANAGER REPORT

### JANUARY 2004

You might hear stations on our section nets pick up traffic for hard-to-get-to places and make those deliveries. Their decision to invest their time and some telephone expense to help the National Traffic System keeps the traffic flowing and often encourages ham recipients to join the ranks of traffic handlers as well. Special thanks are due to those who help in this special way. ----

Any ARRL member who handles traffic can be an Official Relay Station. Contact K9LGU, k9lgu@arrl.net, or W9IXG, w9ixg@arrl.org, to apply.

\*\* Get ready!! The Wisconsin QSO Party is Sunday, March 14! You may get the updated program from [www.n3fjp.com](http://www.n3fjp.com). Get it now and become familiar with the program before the Party! Contest rules are available at this site: <http://www.warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm>. We hope many clubs will take part in this fun event.

\*\* We enjoyed all the folks WISCONSIN: SM: Don Michalski, W9IXG, SEC: KB9ENO, STM: K9LGU, ACC: K9XB, SGL: W9DGI, OOC: N9VE, PIC: W9UQ. TC: K9GDF, BM: WB9NRK ASM: K9UTQ, W9RCW, W9CBE, W9DGI.

\*\* With regret, I inform you of the passing of the following amateurs: Leo Beckman, N9FLP, 80. Frank Burt, WB9EJE, 85. Frank was a member of WVRA and RMRA. Joe Miller, W9WYG, 65, passed away. Joe was a member of RRRC and Chapter 55 of QCWA.

\* \* E d L o n g , W A 4 S W J , wa4swj@hotmail.com, has accepted the editor position of AMSAT Journal and now lives in Williams Bay. He invites amateur satellite articles for the AMSAT Journal. Congratulations and welcome to Wisconsin, Ed!

\*\* Dan, AB9TS, and Scott, KA9FOX, and Roger, KA9BKK, put on a Ham Radio demonstration at Hintgen School, La Crosse, for 45 cub scouts. They showed the ARRL video Amateur Radio Today, explained how Ham Radio works, and made some contacts on the 2 and 20 meters. The boys were all held spellbound by the demonstration! Great job guys!

\*\* The Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Radio Club FM Simplex Contest will be on February 8, 2004. Rules and entry sheets will be available at the MRAC site <http://www.qsl.net/mrac/index.html>. Remember this is an effort to get folks to operate without repeaters and learn to enhance and perfect their stations for point to point communications.

\*\* Need ideas for speakers for local club meeting? Type "speakers bureau" followed by Wisconsin into a search engine, e.g., Google, or just type the city instead of state. Most

\*\* The entire M&M ARC Technician class of six were successful in passing the Technician license exam. This included a 10 year old! Our congratulations to the club for a job well done and, also, to the new amateurs!

\*\* Welcome and congratulations to the Chippewa Valley Amateur Radio Club who held their first meeting this past month in Chippewa Falls. Their website is <http://webpages.charter.net/ronald/cvarc/>

\*\* From STM, Denny, K9LGU: What's a "break" in a message? Between the addressee's info and the text, an operator will say "Break" (or send BT on CW) to indicate that there's a space. After the text, the sender says "Break" (sends BT) again to indicate there's a space between the text and the signature. When counting the check, it's the words between the breaks that are counted. ----

Why do some stations take traffic for delivery if it's not a local call? at the WARAC Swapfest. Another large turnout at this popular Swapfest and many had the opportunity to meet Dick Isely, W9GIG, Central Division Director. We look forward to seeing you at future hamfests that are listed on the Wisconsin web site: <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=WI> 73, Don, W9IXG

ARRL Wisconsin Section Section Manager:

Donald E. Michalski, W9IXG w9ixg@arrl.org

### FEBRUARY 2004

SM: Don Michalski, W9IXG. BWN 3985 0500-0715 W9IXG. BEN 3985 1200 KE9VU. WSBN 3985 1715-1800 K9FHI. WNN 3723 1800 KB9ROB. WSSN 3645 1830 WA9ZTY. WIN-E 3662 1900 WB9ICH. WIN-L 3662 2200 W9UW. (All times are Central)

\*\* With regret, I am informing you of the following Silent Keys: Alberta Fowler, KA9EFS, 78. Alberta was an active member of Pinery Road ARC and Adams County ARES. Herschel Haunfelder, W9VTZ, 84, passed away.

\*\* A recent M&M ARC Sunday net had Mike Anuta, W8HKY, age 103, and Tyler Lehman, KC9FKE, age 10, on the same net! That might qualify as a record for widest age spread on one net!

\*\* The Ozaukee Radio Club 'Ham of the Year' award went to a very deserving Gary Sharbuno, W19M! Congratulations, Gary!

\*\* A reminder that the WIQP is coming up on March 14- noon to 7 p.m., Central time. Rules and entry sheets will be available at the WARAC site: <http://www.warac.org/wqp/wqp.htm>

\*\* Hope to see you at the Tri-County ARC Hamfest on March 21! Details are given at <http://www.cmdline.com/tcarc/>. And, don't forget the AES Superfest April 2, 3. Meet Dick Isely, W9GIG, Central Division Director and other ARRL dignitaries coming in from Newington. <http://www.aesham.com/superfest/sf.html> On Friday (April 2nd) from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. there will be a special two-hour forum and fully operational demonstration on the Icom D-STAR System by Matthew F. Yellen, KB7TSE - Icom Technical Sales Specialist - D-STAR. The D-STAR system is an off the shelf, 128K open protocol DATA system that combines the analog and digital worlds into a seamless communications network at 1.2 and 10 GHz! Just picture being in your vehicle, helping with emergency communications with the 128K DATA - you can visually communicate what is happening simply by e-mailing a photo or live video. Local area clubs should get as many of their membership to AES on Friday night to help fill up the expanded forum area. As an incentive, there will be a \$100 AES Gift Certificate presented to the Club with the largest contingent. Icom is bringing their new IC-7800 HF/50MHz transceiver to Superfest. It's your chance to see this phenomenal new radio in operation. Stop by the ARRL table! \*\* Congratulations to Daniel, W9DGI, for measuring the ARRL test frequency in the 2003 W1AW Frequency Measuring Test to within +/- 1 ppm! Also, kudos to George, WN8VIX, for being within +/- 10 ppm and Frederick, W9GOC, to within +/- 20 ppm. Full results are posted on this site: <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/2003/fmtresults03.html>

\*\* The Four Lakes ARC is planning on having a HF and Echolink station at the Madison Swapfest <http://www.qsl.net/mara/swap04/swap04.html> on April 18. To entice youngsters to attend and make contacts, N9VWH has generously given 24 free tickets to area students! We'd like to thank Paul, N9VWH, and MARA for their contribution and hope that other clubs will consider putting on similar demonstrations!

\*\* From STM, Denny, K9LGU: FAQ # 22 How does a net control station count traffic on the net? When a piece of traffic is offered on a net, it is counted as "listed." When that message is sent, it is counted as one piece cleared. The total of those cleared are sent to the net manager. If the total of pieces offered is included, the NM can determine a bit about the efficiency of the net. If a message must be relayed, it is counted twice -- just as if it is listed again and cleared. When the NCS sends a net report to the Net Manager at the end of a net, that message counts as one listed and one cleared. If a station checks in with a book of 5 messages going "thru," it counts as five offered -- even though the texts are

(Continued on page 8)

Mancorad Radio Club

Theresa Hartlaub, KB9KXE  
Secretary

P.O. Box 204 • Manitowoc, WI  
54221-0204



2-Meter Repeater: 146.01 Input/146.61

JANUARY 2004

Mancorad Radio Club held its January meeting on Jan. 14th at 7:30. The secretary's minutes were accepted as printed in the BSS. Treas. Dick (N9QFY) gave the Treasurer's report which was accepted by all.

After club discussion it was decided to buy batteries for the new antenna analyzer. We have the ac adaptor for it also. Red made motion and seconded by Shawn to keep the old analyzer as a backup unit.

Pres. Fred has bought a tv/vcr mount to put on the wall. This will raise the tv up high in the club shack.

Pres. Fred also handed out the new roster for 2004. Club events for 2004 were noted on the back of the roster. Club members not attending the meeting will be receiving theirs in the mail. One note: the club picnic will be held at Neshotah Park on Aug 28th. The beach house shelter has been reserved for \$23.10.

Our annual Christmas party was well attended. 38 people came and enjoyed a wonderful meal. Gifts were handed out and again certain gifts were stolen from their owners over and over again. Great job organizing by Bob and Dick and wives. Thank You!! Ham of the Year award was handed out to a very surprised Theresa (KB9KXE). Thank you very much for this honor. Carl (KA9WYK) had a great slide show of the past years events and of the

web site. We were a very busy club last year. Thank you Carl.

On a sad note, Lester Pech (WB9MNQ) has passed away. A moment of silence was held in his name. A thank you from the family was read.

After much discussion the club decided to have Pres Fred buy some items. He will order a desk mike system for \$312.95. Motions made by Red and Shawn. Also the club will buy a cw filter and a 1.8 side band filter for the TS450 Kenwood. We will get these from AES. Motion made by John and seconded by Ken.

There is a races net Heavens-above.com for all interested.

Attendance drawing was held. Glenn (AA9MT) was not here. Pot goes to 16.00.

Lunch was served. Meeting closed at 8:15.

MEETING ATTENDANCE:

W6BSF	Fred	KC9AAH	Shawn
KB9KXE	Theresa	KB9KXF	Gene
KB9YRC	Travis	N9GHE	Red
WB9VYO	Vic	W9DWN	Dennis
NZ9Z	John	W9NPX	Roger
N4WGK	Denise	KB9INK	Bob
KA9WYK	Carl	KB9GOY	Mary
K9HAG	Ken	N9QFY	Dick
N9NCU	Dan		

of the World.

ManCoRad radio club has been approved at Toboggan hill in Silver Creek Park for Field Day weekend this year.

Steve Weinert (KB9GPN) would like the Manitowoc and Two Rivers libraries to have a current collection of ARRL/Ham Radio publications. He will donate \$100 towards this cause.

Carl gave a presentation on the Wisconsin Badger Weather net, which is held on 39.85 KHz starting at 5am weekdays.

Ken Tate (WB9OBX) won the drawing, but was not in attendance. The pot goes to \$17.00.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm. Respectfully,  
Shawn Kurschner (KC9AAH)  
Manitowoc, WI USA

There were 17 members in attendance:

KA9WYK	Carl	N9HNP	Dave
KC9AAH	Shawn	K9DUX	Bill
N9FVZ	Dan	N9AWG	Rahlf
KB9YRC	Travis	KB9EME	Vern
NZ9Z	John	KB9INK	Bob
N9NCU	Dan	WB9DQD	Gene
W9NPX	Roger	N9QFY	Dick
N4WGK	Denise	W6BSF	Fred
N9WUN	Chuck		

NOAA Weather Spotters class to be held in Green Bay at the facilities on Thursday, April 8th. A group of 18 can go and there are 10 signed up. A tour of the building may be given. This runs from 7:00-8:30.

There will be a Weather Spotters class held in Manitowoc at the Sheriffs Dept. on Thurs. May 6th at 6:00.

The Cobia event will be April 24-25th. Set up is Friday afternoon. There also is a sleepover available with a Boy Scout group.

Wisconsin Valley Radio Association

Jerry Graebel - W9GLG

P.O. Box 363 • Wausau, WI

Program: Myron, KB9STB started the "Home brew show and tell" program with an antenna he received from Jerry, W9GLG. The antenna is a trap dipole for 40, 80 and 160 meter CW. The antenna is from the ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs 2002 on page 20.13. The traps are made from the center dielectric of RG58U coax. The over all length of the antenna is 124 feet. As constructed it was tuned to 6.966, 3.660 and 1.866 MHz. It was reported to have worked 26 states and Canada in the CQWW CW contest on January 23rd and 24th. Next Lew, K9JPS had his well-known Coffee Can Scale. It is used to measure the water content of snow. This is used to get the total precipitation and does not require the snow to be melted. If you would like to learn more about the scale, Lew would be happy to hear from you. Next Mark, N9MEA had an ammo box he converted into a potable 2-meter FM and APRS station. It included a 2-meter voice radio, APRS radio and a GPS with a reradiating antenna. The member's did not get to see this working because of a tripped breaker for the meeting room.

Meeting Minutes of February 3, 2004 at Marshfield Clinic - Wausau Center.

President Mark Rasmussen called meeting to order at 7:20 P.M.

Present: N9MO, W9GLG, N9MEA, KC9DOS, KC9DDO, KC9EVW, W9PBB, WD9CPY, N9YYU, KC9CIY, N9KNY, K9QM, KC9BSK, K9YF, KC9EQS, N9PHC, KC9FCE, KB9ZOF, WA9NBC, N9NRC, N9TTA, N9LIA, K9MIX, K9JPS, KC9FCD, KB9STB, KC9ASL, KC9AEJ, KB9VBR, N9NMH, K9DB.

Treasurer's Report: Motion to accept: N9MO , Second: N9LIA

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the December 2, 2003 meeting were accepted as published in Badger State Smoke Signals and/or posted on the WVRA Web Site. www.wvraclub.org.

Old Business:

1. Michael, KB9VBR reported that there is a need for a Net Control Operator for the 5th Wednesday on the 2-meter swap net. There has been a problem with broadcast stations from Europe on 3.994MHz for the Monday Night HF discussion net. At this time Michael will look for another frequency that the net can use. There has been a request made of the WVRA to organize the Communications and Technologies Net that has been on 3.994 before the Monday night net. The control operator for the net has retired but would like to see it continue. If you can help by being Net Control or would like more information, contact Michael at kb9vbr@wvraclub.org.

2. Myron, KB9STB informed the members that "The Carrier" went out by Email on February 2nd. He also said there is a new club called the Chippewa Valley Amateur Radio Club. They have repeaters on 147.375 and

444.350 in the Chippewa Falls area. There is a link to their webpage on the WVRA home page.

3. Dave, N9KNY reported that there has been a lot of cleanup work done on the WVRA web page including a new banner. He will be adding links to many related sites in the near future.

4. The Badger State Winter Games will be this weekend at the Nine Mile Recreation Area. The organizers are looking for information on those who have volunteered. If you did not receive an Email requesting the information, contact Mike at kb9ded@wvraclub.org. Those who have volunteered are asked to be at the chalet by 8:00 A.M. There will be a talk in on 147.135 pl144.8 and simplex used for the events. It was also requested that if you can help with the Special Olympics on February 21st and 22nd that you also contact Mike.

Jack, N9LIA reported that the M.S Walk would be April 18th. We will need people for a number of different areas. If you have been a volunteer for the M.S. Walk in the past, you will receive a registration form in the mail. If you are a new volunteer you get a form from Jack.

6. If you have any ideas for a program you would like to see before a meeting you can pass it along to Myron at kb9stb@wvraclub.org. It was suggested that we have a program on HAZMAT. Collecting the annual dues will be the program at the April meeting.

7. The WVRA will be hosting a Technician Class Workshop on March 13th and 14th. This is a class to help you get your Technician license. The class is free but you will need the ARRL publication "Now You're Talking". This book can be purchased from the ARRL or Myron can order it at a slight discount. The class is limited to 25 people. Information will be sent by Email soon. There will be a VE testing session for all elements after the class on Sunday.

8. The "Excellence in Amateur Radio Award" will be presented at a banquet on March 27th at the American Legion Clubhouse on Wausau's northeast side. Hors d' oeuvres will be served at 6:00 P.M. along with a cash bar. A steak and shrimp dinner will be served at 7:00 P.M. At about 7:30 P.M. there is a plan to have a speaker give a short presentation. The cost of the banquet will be \$21 per person. Seating is limited to 60 people so reservations are a must. Payment can be mailed to Cindy Graebel, 624 E. Bridge St., Wausau, WI, 54403-3566 or hand delivered to Jerry, W9GLG. This year there are three nominees: Myron Oestreich, KB9STB, Mark Rasmussen, N9MEA and Lew Sheerar, K9JPS. There will be an Email sent to all members with instructions and a ballot that is due by the March meeting.

9. Myron has been looking into jackets with the WVRA logo on the back and your call sign and name on the front. He is still looking for input on the style of jacket; so if you would

(Continued on page 7)

Wisconsin Valley Radio Association

(Continued from page 6)

like to let him know your ideas, feel free to contact him.

10. The ARES I.D.s will be distributed at the Skywarn training on March 9th at the American Legion in Wausau at 6:30 P.M. It will be required that you take the Skywarn training if you wish to be in the field as a storm spotter this summer. February 8th there will be a CPR/First Aid/AED training in the Community Room at the Weston Public Safety Building, 5303 Mesker St. in the Village of Weston at 6:00 P.M. There will be a fee of \$5 per person, which covers the administrative cost imposed by the American Red Cross. RSVP for this is a must.

11. Mark, N9MEA reported that the PA's on the repeaters have been changed. It was an 8-hour job. He found that the diplexer needed to be replaced. A new one has been ordered.

12. Michael, KB9VBR reported that as a club we have raised over \$2500 through the WVRA auction, "Bowling for QSO'S", the WVRA Bowling Tournament, grants and member donations for the repeater project. He handed out Pledge Cards called "QSL" Cards. This is a way for the members to pledge a donation to help show the commitment of the membership to the project. This will help with the grant application. This is a pledge and the amount is not due now, but it can give the committee an idea as to when the money will be in so materials can be ordered. All people will receive a receipt for tax purposes. If you are not a member of the WVRA, please put your name and address on the back and you get a receipt. It is asked that the card be returned to the committee before or at the March meeting. There will be an attachment to "The Carrier" of the pledge card also. If you know of anyone looking for a tax deduction or if your employer has a matching funds for charity program please let them know. Other fund-raising plans are for a Crispy Cream Donut run in March. There is a plan being worked on for a golf outing in August.

13. Paul, K9DB reported that Frank Burt, WB9EJE has become a silent key. He was a member of both the WVRA and the RMRA.

14. Congratulations to Trenia, KC9ASL and Bob, KC9FCD who both advanced to General Class.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M K9MIX Second - N9MO

The next meeting will be Tuesday March 2, 2004 at 7:00 P.M. at the Marshfield Clinic Wausau Center Cafeteria. (Formerly known as the Wausau Medical Center). Park and enter from the Employee parking lot on west side of the building. Call in on 2-meter club repeater if you need directions: frequency is 147.135 (pl 114.8).

Respectfully submitted,  
Jerry Graebel - W9GLG  
(w9glg@arrl.net)  
WVRA Secretary

I am a bomb technician. If you see me running, try to keep up.

Love makes the world go 'round, with a little help from intrinsic angular momentum.

If a putt passes over the hole without dropping, it is deemed to have dropped. The law of gravity holds that any object attempting to maintain a position in the atmosphere without something to support it must drop. The law of gravity supercedes the law of golf.  
-- Donald A. Metz

Headline: Kids Make Nutritious Snacks.

Headline: Teachers Strike Idle Students.

Logic 101: Nobody is perfect. I am a nobody. Therefore I am perfect.

SUPERFEST

D-Star Forum AES

At AES Superfest Friday (April 2nd) from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. there will be a special two-hour forum and fully operational demonstration on the Icom D-STAR System by Matthew F. Yellen, KB7TSE - Icom Technical Sales Specialist – D-STAR.

The D-STAR system is an off the shelf, 128K open protocol DATA system that combines the analog and digital worlds into a seamless communications network at 1.2 and 10 GHz! Just picture being in your vehicle, helping with emergency communications with the 128K DATA – you can visually communicate what is happening simply by e-mailing a photo or live video. Attend and learn MORE!

We are encouraging local area clubs get as many of their membership to AES on Friday night to help fill up our expanded forum area. As an incentive, there will be a \$100 AES Gift Certificate presented to the Club with the largest contingent.

Icom is bringing their new IC-7800 HF/50MHz transceiver to Superfest. It's your chance to see this phenomenal new radio in operation.

The Ozaukee Radio Club, Inc. Presents its 26th Annual Amateur Radio and Computer

SWAPFEST

Cedarburg, WI

SATURDAY MAY 1, 2004

8:00 AM to 1:00 PM

CIRCLE B RECREATION CENTER

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(Map on back)

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• FOOD AND REFRESHMENTS

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For pre-registration, send a postcard with your name, call, address, telephone number, and exam elements desired to:  
Badger Examiners  
c/o Gary Sharbuno, WI9M  
5119 W. Willow Road  
Brown Deer, WI 53223  
(414) 355-0237  
Bring the ORIGINAL plus a COPY of your current Amateur license plus another form of I.D.

RESERVE YOUR TABLES EARLY

Power availability - limited - first come first served  
(Bring your own duct tape to secure your extension cords)

For further information, call Gene Szudrowitz  
at (262) 377-6792 between 6:00 and 8:00 PM  
also see Ozaukee Radio Club's Web site [www.qsl.net/orc/](http://www.qsl.net/orc/)

Advanced Registration Form - 2004 Ozaukee Radio Club's Cedarburg Swapfest

Please send the following tickets by return mail in the ENCLOSED SASE:  
\_\_\_ Admission tickets @ \$4.00 in advance  
\_\_\_ Admission tickets @ \$5.00 at the door  
Note: All persons entering the Swapfest must have an admission ticket  
\_\_\_ 8 foot table @ \$10.00 \_\_\_ Power requested  
\_\_\_ Return application if power is not available

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALLSIGN: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_


Mail this form with your check and a SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED (BUSINESS SIZED) ENVELOPE to:  
O. R. C. Swapfest Committee - W55 N865 Cedar Ridge Drive, Cedarburg, WI 53012

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WISCONSIN SECTION MANAGER REPORT

(Continued from page 5)  
identical. When those messages are sent, it counts as 5 passed. If all five had to be relayed, they'd be counted again. We count the activity on a net to measure its effectiveness even though there are a number of variables that should be considered when we look at a net's statistics - conditions, liaison to other nets, time of

Finding Electrical Interference Big Time  
by Richard Regent, K9GDF

Electrical equipment like hair dryers, electric shavers, mixers, blenders, power saws, or vehicle ignition systems, can radiate unwanted buzz or sizz noises that might be picked up by someone listening to a radio. On a huge scale, the electric supply network, with its high poles, high voltages and extremely long wires, can generate noise -- big time.

Fortunately, in Wisconsin, we have radio frequency interference finding experts, such as one of our ARRL Technical Specialists, **Richard Polivka, N6NKO**. Rich uncannily finds sources of unwanted signals with his mobile equipment and then accurately reports his technical findings to the authorities for action.

Recently I was checking the clear channel 1,710 kHz on the upper frequency end of my AM car radio. Surprise -- there was a loud whining interference noise in a Greenfield neighborhood around South 39th Street and West Layton Avenue. The interference could even be heard from the radio while driving under high voltage lines that pass over the freeway several blocks north of that neighborhood. Electrical wires, because they are high in the air and are very long, can radiate signals over vast areas. So it is understandable that I asked N6NKO, of West Allis, Wisconsin, for technical assistance to find and get rid of this mysterious electrical noise.

Why was I checking 1,710 kHz? It is the highest AM frequency my radio can receive, most likely to detect radio static and interference. My wife and I were deciding to purchase a home in this area. Wouldn't you listen on the radio too? This intolerable radio racket almost became a deciding factor to buy, or not to buy, the house.

Richard Polivka immediately made preparations to do some area direction finding of the interference and gather information. His Jeep is rigged for 160 meters through 440 MHz (except for 220 MHz) on all modes. He assured me, "I can do some RFI sniffing and see what I come up with." The next night, Rich found a dead street light in the subdivision, corroded ground wiring and several other noteworthy conditions of which he made notes. Eventually N6NKO composed, wrote and mailed a report to the WE Energies Complaint Department, listing electric pole numbers, addresses, street intersections and directions, frequencies, signal levels and pertinent descriptions.

The information reached the RFI Detection Group at WE Energies, who

day, mode, urgency of traffic, and locations of those checking in. It's good to know that traffic is being passed efficiently, so we get the training we need. We count because folks are counting on us. -- 73, K9LGU/STM

\*\* Keep me posted on your club and area news!! 73, Don, W9IXG w9ixg@arrl.org

perform their RFI sniffing. The Group Leader, armed with the thorough complaint report, found a vacuum re-closer and lightning arrestor combination in the area that was electrically noisy. Some more tests determined it definitely was the lightning arrestor. Parts had to be ordered and scheduled for replacement. Then on the scheduled day there was a momentary electrical outage, just a flicker of the neighborhood's lights, the maintenance repair to correct the problem was complete.

One day I checked my radio. To my very pleasant surprise, the loud whining electrical noise in the neighborhood was completely gone, but the cooperation developed between Amateur Radio and WE Energies was just beginning and strongly continues.

The two RFI enthusiasts, the WE Energies Group Leader and Richard, got together over breakfast to compare and contrast tools and techniques and, in a way, to celebrate their collective accomplishment. The gentleman that Richard worked with will be retiring in several months and will definitely recommend to his successor the resources of Amateur Radio and of N6NKO. Members of the WE Energies RFI Detection Team are now aware of the ARRL member's capability, the Technical Specialist program, and they have asked for Richard's continued help and cooperation on future RFI issues.

Rich also notes that on his recent RFI hunts he detects noise made by phantom power supplies that some cable television systems use. These devices put electrical garbage back on the electrical wires. To solve the problems these units cause would require working with yet another utility company. Whether it is new technology or equipment in need of maintenance, the RFI tracking and public relations work are never ending.

Because Richard Polivka did a thorough and outstanding job to locate, report and follow up on this RFI interference, he may have prevented a serious electrical situation. For sure, this problem's associated terrible electrical noise is gone. The folks at the electric company are certainly glad to not waste energy generating unwanted electrical noise, while its maintenance crews are thankful that this matter could be taken care of promptly. Remember, just a few electrical problems, like the domino effect that occurred around Mason, Ohio, can quickly expand to create havoc to the electrical customers in several states. Thanks so very much, N6NKO, for your help. My wife and I are especially thankful too. We have purchased the home in this lovely neighborhood, now free of buzz and sizz.

MADISON AREA REPEATER ASSOCIATION

2004 Madison Hamfest & Computer Show

Sponsored by the Madison Area Repeater Association - W9HSY  
The date will be Sunday, April 18, 2004  
**Doors Open to the public at 8 AM - Dealer setup Saturday night**  
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Questions? For More information, see the MARA Web site at: [www.qsl.net/mara](http://www.qsl.net/mara)  
or write to: MARA, Box 8890, Madison, WI 53708-8890 - Call 608.245.8890  
E-mail: [n9vwh@arrl.net](mailto:n9vwh@arrl.net)

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(All vendors must have admission ticket in addition to table reservation)

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Business name, if any: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Table reservations postmarked by March 24, 2004 after March 24, 2004  
Eight foot tables (for AC Power add \$18) \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15 \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$18  
Indoor only – No outdoor sales! (\$25.00 on day of swapfest, if available)

Mail completed form with check to: MARA, PO Box 8890, Madison, WI 53708-8890

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(Continued from page 4)

W9UW	0	75	49	2	126
WA9ZTY	0	34	50	2	86
AG9G	0	17	56	0	73
W9SWL	0	15	37	8	60
W9BHL	1	8	41	3	53
KE9VU	0	23	28	0	52
KG9B	0	5	40	0	45
K9UTQ	0	15	5	15	35
KA9RZL	8	11	7	3	29
K9GU	0	0	28	0	28
KB9ROB	0	24	2	0	26
KN9P	1	11	12	0	24
AA9BB	0	0	24	2	24
WD9FLJ	1	7	3	7	18
WB9ICH	0	16	2	0	18
KJ9W	0	1	15	1	17
N8JAT	0	5	5	5	15
W9RSX	0	1	8	0	9
W9PVD	0	3	3	2	8

P S H R SUMMARY  
February 2004

CALL	1	2	3	4	5	6	T
N9VE	40	40	30	330	0	0	440
AG9G	40	40	20	90	0	0	190
WA9ZTY	40	40	30	10	50	0	170
K9JPS	38	40	10	80	0	0	168
KG9B	29	35	20	50	0	0	144
K9FHI	40	40	30	5	0	0	115
W9BHL	40	40	30	0	0	0	110
KB9KEG	40	37	20	0	0	10	106
W9CBE	40	40	30	0	0	0	100
KA9RZL	30	29	30	5	0	0	94
N8JAT	23	15	20	10	0	10	78
WD9FLJ	40	18	10	0	0	10	78
W9RSX	40	9	10	0	0	0	59

MS WALK

The 16th Annual MS WALK will be held Sunday, April 25th in Milwaukee. I am looking for Amateur Radio Operators in the Milwaukee Area for this event. All positions are open. We need SAGS, Rest Stop Operators and Shadows. Lunch and a T-shirt will be provided. Please send me an email at ka9tgn@arrl.net if you would like to help or need more info.

Here is a link on the walk if you would like more info:  
<http://www.wisms.org/html/events/walk/index.html>

73,  
Mike, KA9TGN  
Communications Coordinator



WANTED: Electro Voice speaker enclosures. Trade: 35mm & 120 cameras, professional enlarger for Ham equipment, Terry Witt, AA9Ba, 920-685-5018

SIGNS, SIGNS,  
EVERYWHERE THERE'S A SIGN  
Pizza Shop Slogan:  
"7 days without pizza makes one weak."  
At a Tire Shop in Milwaukee:  
"Invite us to your next blow-out."  
On a Plastic Surgeon's Office door:  
"Hello. Can we pick your nose?"

FROM THE PUBLISHER

As we are finishing up this issue of BSSS a few things come to mind. We hope to see many of our supporters at upcoming events in the area. We plan on attending the Tri-County fest, AES Superfest and the MARA Swapfest. There will be others during the coming months as scheduling permit.

We have begun a process of Scanning in the back issues of Smoke Signals and will have CDs with all the back issues available when completed. At this time we have completed all of the Yellow Thunder Smoke Signals and Badger State Smoke Signals from the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club conception in 1969 through January 1987. We also have all of the Wisconsin Herald published by the late Don Stenz, K9KSA and some WNA bulletins. This is over 4000 pages done with 2000 more to go. We have obtained a scanner to scan in the tabloid size BSSS from February 1987 to 2001 (later issues were created as .pdf) and as soon as we get it installed we will begin the process of scanning them in. We are creating .pdf files that can be read using Adobe

Reader.

In addition to Smoke Signals, we would like to include other Wisconsin Amateur Radio publications. There have been many excellent organization and club bulletins over the years. I remember receiving many over the years and wish I had saved more of them. Some that come to mind are the WIN bulletins put out by Bud "The Ole Geezer" Woida, W9KQM, The W9er from Satterfield Electronics in Madison, Club bulletins such as those from the Four Lakes ARC, Stevens Point, Milwaukee and many other clubs. If your or your clubs have anything that can be included, please let me know. We can scan in your material and return the originals to you.

If you would like to support this project and have a set of the disks, a donation of \$100.00 will get you a disk of the work done so far, 4 semi-annual updated disks and a 2 year subscription or extension to the printed edition of BSSS.

Hope that you enjoy this issue and see you at the swapfests and other events around Wisconsin.

73 ken k9en

FLEA MARKET

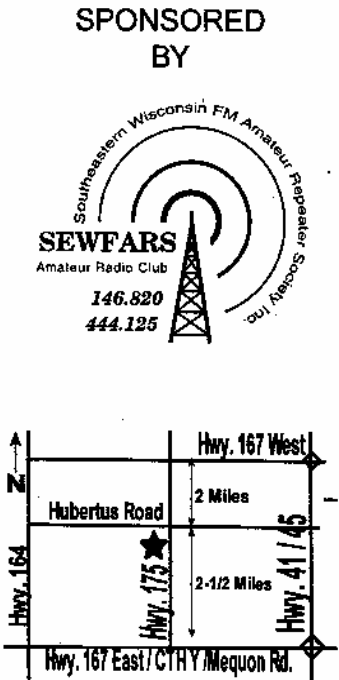
April 25, 2004  
8:00 AM

SETUP STARTS AT 6:00 AM  
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Brief Description of Display & Items being sold. \_\_\_\_\_

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SEWFARS Flea Market  
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(Continued from page 6)

MANCORAD

Field Day is June 26th-27th at Silver Creek Park. Things have been ok'd with the Manitowoc Rec Dept. We can set up at Toboggan Hill. If you have any equipment that can be used, contact Fred or John (NZ9Z). A separate sign up form is available.

AES Superfest will be April 2nd and 3rd. Special prizes Friday night for the club best represented.

Upcoming HAM Fests: March 21st--Jefferson County Fair grounds, April 18th--Madison.

Sunday, March 14th Wisconsin QSO Party will run from noon to 7:00 pm. The club shack will be open for those who wish to participate. Records will be kept on the number of contacts made. All are welcome.

Travis, (KB9YRC) will give a power point presentation on weather spotting next meeting.

A huge thank you to Red, Fred and Dan (N9NCU) for all their work done at the club shack. The backup repeater is almost ready for service. A touch pad will be installed by Franks Radio in the future. Thank you!

A night in May will be for shack clean up. The floors will be also done that night. A date will be set next month.

Good possibility for a light house event at Raleigh Point Lighthouse. Fred, Dennis and John have been in contact with the Coast Guard to use the grounds. They have checked out the grounds and have plans in the works for stations to be used. This would be Aug. 21-21nd around the clock.

Sheboygan President, Bob, (K9XB) was present and gave a presentation on ARRL. He is the coordinator for the state and visits clubs around the state. He gave an over view of the new licensing structure which should be implemented by 2006. He noted all books and manuals will be updated to reflect these changes.

It was also mentioned that Tues., March 16th, there will be a testing session at Sheboygan for anyone who wishes to upgrade.

A report was also given by Carl (KA9WYK), Steve (KB9GPN) and Dan (N9NCU) on the status of ham books available at local and school libraries. They had a listing of all books. Their general consensus was that almost all books are outdated and need to be replaced. They recommended a

full set of books (200.00) for the Manitowoc Public Library, the other libraries getting a new "Now You're Talking" book. Also a few getting the hand book. Fred noted that there is a 2004 hand book at the Manitowoc Public Library. Books will be updated in June, so we should hold off till they are available. There is a possibility to get a grant towards the expense. Vern (KB9EME) also said he might be able to get the books wholesale. More next month. Steve has offered 100.00 towards the project on his own. If others in the club would like to contribute, contact one of the committee.

Two other events to mark on your calendars. Club Family Picnic will be held Aug. 28th in Two Rivers. Also the club will run a brat fry at Pick and Save on June 5th, Sat. A sign up sheet will be passed around next meeting. Also looking at having one at the CR Mobil station on August 18th. More on that coming up. Any help is always greatly appreciated.

If anyone sees Bill (N9XEZ), wish him the best. He took a nasty fall at work. Spent some time off but now is reported to be back to work.

Len (N9QFO) was picked for the drawing. He was not in attendance, so the pot goes to 18.00.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45  
Lunch was served.

Respectively submitted  
Theresa, Secretary (KB9KXE)

Meeting Attendance

KB9KXE	Theresa	K9XB	Bob, visitor
KC9AAH	Shawn	N9GHE	Red
KB9YRC	Travis	W9NPX	Roger
N4WGK	Denise	N9NCU	Dan
KB9KXF	Gene	KB9GOX	Jim
NZ9Z	John	N9HNP	Dave
KB9GOY	Mary	K9HAG	Ken
KA9WYK	Carl	AA9MT	Glenn
N9FVZ	Dan	K9DUX	Bill
WB9DQD	Gene	KB9INK	Bob
KB9EME	Vern	W6BSF	Fred
N9QFY	Dick	KB9GPN	Steve



# THE WISCONSIN PACKETEER

**Wisconsin Amateur Packet Radio Association**  
**Allen Schnepf, N0GMJ, Treasurer**  
**Ogema, WI 54459**

**Andy Nemec, KB9ALN, Editor—453 Cottage Grove Avenue—Green Bay, WI 54304—e-mail: kb9aln@gbonline.com**

## WAPR News - April, 2004

Hello everyone. As we enter Spring, the focus on our activities turns to outdoor work, or work that requires decent outdoor conditions.

Right now, Joel, N9BQM reports that they are waiting for site conditions to improve so that the radio going to Larry, WD9ESU can be checked out before sending it to him. Same for the the W9DQA radio. Seems that the site they are using for testing has a little mud problem, and we'll have to wait for things to dry out before this can be done.

However, there is a new node to report - a backbone node on UHF in Fort Atkinson. Right now it has little to talk to, but as we get other nodes back up, this will change.

In other news, I have taken GRBBBS off of the node lists in Northeastern Wisconsin. I have kept the station itself up as a "community mailbox". However, it didn't seem logical to keep advertising it as a BBS when Green Bay has no BBS feed and few users. A few people have checked in looking for BBS messages and there have been none in the past few months. If we ever do get a network connection to another BBS and obtain a feed, then I can and probably will re-activate the node portion and once again put the BBS on the node lists.

That's all for this time, until next time, 73 from Andy.

## Introduction to 802.11 Packet Radio

by Andy Nemec, KB9ALN

In our last feature, we talked about one of the new technologies impacting packet radio, Icom's D-Star. I was actually able to lay my hands on a pair of these radios and put them through a non-scientific test. There will be more that I'll write about as we get more experience with these radios. In the meantime, we'll start a short series on 802.11 technologies. You will notice that I've referred to it as "802.11 Packet Radio" - which is accurate. While it's not what we usually think of as packet radio (computer, TNC and radio mix), it is packet radio. It sends information in packets. The main difference between these technologies and existing AX.25 technologies is the type and size of the packets.

What is 802.11?

802.11 is a set of wireless data communications standards developed by the IEEE. It is a general class of wireless data devices that operates under FCC Part 15 rules that regulate unlicensed private communications. 802.11 is also called "wireless ethernet" or "Wi-Fi". Ethernet, as a lot of computer users know, has been a wired network that allows the interconnection of computers. This is the same concept, without wires and with radios.

This technology takes the form of a network card containing the usual ethernet technology, a small radio transceiver, and additional parts and computer firmware that are required for radio operation. The card plugs into an existing slot on the computer, and a little antenna sticks out the back of a card, instead of a coaxial or RJ-45 connector. Installing one is very similar to installing a conventional ethernet card.

In addition to the PC-based ethernet card, there are other devices that use this technology to provide a link or network access. These are packet routers and Wireless Access Points, or WAPs. These are analogous to a packet radio network nodes. Some also have the ability to connect a wireless network to a wired network, such as a dial-up, DSL or Cable internet.

There are several different types of 802.11 services - designated a through g. They operate in the GHz frequencies, and each has its own maximum data rate. All operate with spread-spectrum technology, so a larger number of users can be accommodated with reduced interference issues.

Three common variations of 802.11 are currently in use - 802.11a (5 GHz with data rates of 54 Mb/s), 802.11b (2.4 GHz with data rates of 11 Mb/s) and 802.11g (2.4 GHz with a data rate of 54 Mb/s). While these data rates are impressive, they do not actually measure throughput.

One throughput test revealed 802.11a and 802.11g averaging approximately 18 Mb/s, while 802.11b averaged 4.5 Mb/s. These were under near-ideal conditions - computers were located in the same room with no interference known. In actual-use environments - sharing a given channel with others and dealing with other factors that can affect signal quality - 802.11b may effectively be lowered to 1 Mb/s or less.

Notice the frequency bands used for these devices, 2.4 and 5 GHz. Part of these bands lie within Amateur Service allocations - which means that we can operate them under Part 97 rules and regulations, which is why

Hams are finding them appealing.

Two types of 802.11 service are primarily used, and are used not only by hams, but by the general public. These are 802.11b and 802.11g. Radiational output power is strictly limited, as these are intended to be used by the general public with little or no technical know-how. Most have special antenna connectors to discourage unlicensed users from attaching an antenna that may increase radiational output power beyond Part-15 limits. If an external antenna is used, Part 15 users must decrease the output power of the wireless ethernet card to compensate for antenna gain. Amateurs have no such restriction, but must be mindful of Part 97 regulations that require us to use Automatic Power Control when using spread-spectrum power levels greater than 1 watt. Most of these devices operate at power levels of 100 mW to 350 mw, with the highest legal output (for consumers) at 1 Watt.

Amateurs can operate these devices under our Amateur Part 97 rules. This means we can use increased radiational output power levels, meaning that they can use used effectively over greater distances than unlicensed users legally can. The ARRL has suggested that hams using this technology do so carefully, however, as there is a potential for interference with not only unlicensed users, but other hams operating in the satellite and weak-signal segments of our shared bands. They also recommend using horizontal antenna polarization to help reduce any interference to and from other users of 802.11.

802.11 is channelized. For example, 802.11b uses a total of 14 channels, each 22 MHz wide. Not all are available in the U.S., and only 6 of these channels lie within the Amateur Service allocation. Additionally, channel 1 is suggested to be "off-limits". This channel lies within the weak-signal and satellite sub-band, as suggested by the ARRL bandplan..

However, this still gives us a maximum of five 22 MHz wide channels to enjoy. With the high data throughput they are capable of carrying, a whole host of new possibilities can be realized.

Next?

This condensed introduction to 802.11 will progress to exploring network infrastructure possibilities and what uses they can be put to. In accordance with the ARRL's ARES push to use this technology for Emergency Communications purposes, we'll also explore the special situations presented in that environment.

Hope you'll be able to join us for the coming articles exploring 802.11 technologies. Until then, 73 from Andy.

## FCC KEEPS UP PRESSURE ON ALLEGED UNLICENSED 10-METER OPERATIONS

The FCC is continuing efforts to stem alleged unlicensed operation--primarily by long-haul truckers--on the 10-meter amateur band. Enforcement Bureau Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth, this month wrote FedEx Corporation CEO Frederick W. Smith enclosing a complaint asserting that some FedEx drivers have used "Amateur Radio transmitters to communicate on the 10-meter Amateur Radio band without a license," Hollingsworth said. The complaint focused on alleged operations in Tennessee.

"Many truckers use CB radio, which does not require a license," Hollingsworth told Smith. "However, any person using a radio transmitter on Amateur Radio frequencies must possess both a station and operator license, for which an examination is required." He pointed out that some truckers have been known to use uncertificated dual-purpose CB radios that also can transmit on 10 meters. CB gear must be FCC certificated, formerly known as type acceptance, but ham radio gear does not need to be. So-called dual-use ham/CB transceivers may not be sold or marketed under FCC rules.

Two additional trucking firms this month were the target of FCC warning notices involving complaints of unlicensed operation on 10 meters. Hollingsworth wrote Carl Leonard Ross of CLR Transport in Saluda, North Carolina, citing allegations that a CLR Transport vehicle traveling on I-85 in North Carolina "was the source of unlicensed radio transmissions on the 10-meter Amateur Radio band on July 14, 2003." Cassidy's Express of Bristol, Pennsylvania, heard from the FCC regarding reports that one of its vehicles was the source of unlicensed radio transmissions while under way in Pennsylvania last October 9.

Hollingsworth asked Smith to advise FedEx drivers that such operation of radio transmitting equipment without a license is a violation of federal law and could subject violators to stiff fines and even jail time as well as seizure of equipment. Pointing out the same penalties for violators, Hollingsworth asked the other two trucking firms to contact him to discuss the allegations.

Earlier this year, the FCC sent warning notices to two shipping companies in the wake of reports to the Commission that some of the companies' vehicles may have been illegally transmitting on 10 meters. At least one of the companies, UPS, offered its full cooperation and promised to investigate.

—The ARRL IETTER



# Yellow Thunder

## Amateur Radio Club

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**WB9FDZ (Original Club Call)**  
**K9ODK (Robert L. Prine Memorial Call)**  
**Club net: Sundays 8:00 p.m. on 147.315**  
**Robert Loomis, KB9VSQ, Secretary**  
**108 Scarlet Ct., Reedsburg, WI 53959**  
**YTARC Home Page: <http://www.qsl.net/ytarc/>**



### Club Business

The February meeting was called to order by the club President, Mr. Steven Schulze N9UD0, on February 4, 2004 at 1915 (7:15 P.M. CST). The meeting is held in the EOC meeting room of the Sauk County Courthouse in Baraboo WI.

Secretary's report for the January 2004 meeting was discussed as published to club members via email and in the Badger State Smoke Signals. Motion by Maurey, KA9TBU to accept January Minutes as presented, seconded by Don, K9JXX, motion carried by voice vote of the members present.

Treasurer Bill, N9KXX, gave the Treasurer's report.

Current account balance \$x.xx, video tapes and study guides from the ARRL are paid for, Badger State Smoke Signals subscriptions are due and will be paid, this will leave a balance of @ \$x.xx

### Old Business

Discussion on doing two fox hunts this year, one in the spring and one in the fall. Discussion followed. Dates were set as Wednesday May 5 and Tuesday October 5, 2004. Wipe the dust and grime off your DF antennas, these are always a fun event and all are welcome to participate.

Field Day, June 26 and 27, discussion what club would like to do this year. Item tabled until next month.

Circus City Swap Fest is Saturday August 14, 2004. Some discussion of subject ensued. Item tabled.

### New Business

As part of our subscription Badger State Smoke Signals, a limited number of copies are available free to libraries and public officials. A short discussion on who should get them. Bill N9KXX gave a copy of officials and libraries to receive these to Ken K9EN, BSSS editor.

Bill KC9CVD brought to the membership that there will be a First Aid/CPR class at the Lake Delton Ambulance Garage this month. Certification is free and it is on February 21, morning for the basic class, afternoon for the advanced. After some discussion between Bill and Pete WD9JIB, it was recommended that anyone interested contact Corrine at Sauk County Emergency Government for more information or to pre register. (608) 355-3200

Thursday, March 11 2004 is the date set for Storm Spotter training in Baraboo.

This is well worth attending. The standard or basic course will be 10:00 A.M. to noon and the advanced will be 2:00 until 4:00 P.M.

A short Discussion followed on the subject of Skywarn Net Control. Pete WD9JIB stated there should be net control class coming up soon for anyone interested. (Any one interested I strongly recommend the course, also any help with Skywarn Net Control duties I greatly appreciate. Bob)

Bill N9KXX brought to the membership the date of the MARA Swapfest. It is scheduled for Sunday April 18 In Stoughton.

The Baraboo Great Circus Parade is scheduled for Saturday July Third. It is anticipated that we will asked to provide some communication assets. Steve N9UD0 and Pete

WD9JIB are on top of this one and trying to get advance word on what we will be asked to try to supply in services. It sounds like a big event and volunteers will be needed.

Bill N9KXX suggested that look into trying put together a special event station, short discussion followed. Subject tabled until next meeting.

Joe WB9SBD mentioned the Adventure Race coming up on August 28 and a new event, "Junior Adventure Race (Reedsburg Rumble)", a shortened race on July 17. It will start at Webb Park in Reedsburg. It looks to be an event to participate in. Joe is looking for volunteer communicators for both events.

Steve N9UD0 brought to the membership that our respected Section Manager Don W9IXG has requested use of the YTARC, 147.315, repeater on June 12 on June 12 2004, for the Horrible Hilly 100 event. Approved on a voice vote of members present unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by Don K9JXX, seconded by Tom N9PQJ Club Vice President, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted  
Robert Loomis KB9VSQ  
Members and Visitors Present:

Maurey Gurgel	WA9TBU
Don Evenson	K9JXX
Bill Stehling	KC9CVD
Duane Grotophorst	N9DG
Joe Mayenschein	WB9SBD
	(Mr through the swamp we go)

Brian Benson	KC9FHF (a new ham, welcome)	William Klinkner	N9KXX	Treasurer
Chris Benson	(Dad did it, I will too)	Tom Harrison	N9PQJ	Vice President
Ken Ebnetter	K9EN	Pete Sweeney	WD9JIB	
Steve Schulze	N9UD0 President	Dave Spearing	Sauk County ARES/RACES	KB9CSW

### Amateur Radio General Class Workshop-- May 15, 16

Here is a weekend workshop to help you upgrade your Technician Class ham radio license to General Class. Earn new privileges that will enable you to explore all the ham bands, try out new modes, and get into worldwide communications. A license examination session on Sunday afternoon concludes the workshop, so can upgrade your license to General Class in only two days. (The workshop covers the written element but does not cover 5 wpm Morse Code, which is required to earn the General Class license.)

The workshop is free-even refreshments are provided! (There is, however, an exam fee of \$12.00 to cover administrative costs.) To prepare you must get a copy of the ARRL General Class License Manual (4th ed., \$15), which is available via web or mail order from the American Radio Relay League:

### MDXC Scholarship Announcement

Recently the Madison DX Club announced a program to provide local students enrolled in an institution of higher learning with financial assistance. The structure of the program is in place and a number of contributions have been received. The program is off to a good start.


The MDXC Scholarship Program is designed to be a community project. It is administered by a committee of three members who are not necessarily members of the MDXC. All funds received and expended are placed in or paid from a bank account controlled solely by the Scholarship Committee. Expenditures are limited to administrative costs such as postage to send mailings to local high schools counselors. Other materials and website space have been donated to the cause.

There are two benefits from this program. First, all of you are aware that the costs of higher education are soaring. Books for one semester alone can total \$500 so any help we can provide to a student will make a difference. Second, you probably have noticed that younger folks in our community seem to be less interested in amateur radio. It is time we got the message out to younger people that amateur radio is deeply involved in space, cyber-space and the human race. This scholarship program is a positive way to promote amateur radio to younger folks and possibly it will lead to other inroads in developing amateur radio in the area. In general, this program will receive a positive reaction from all of the community.

While the MDXC Scholarship Program is indeed off to a good start, it needs all the support available. Any financial contribution you might make to the program will make more and larger scholarships available. A donation form is attached. Complete details of the program are available at <http://www.madisondxclub.org>.

If you feel you could be of service to the Committee you should contact the Committee chairman Bill, N9CHN or one of the other Committee members. As well, if you know of a ham who will be (or is) "attending college", please pass on the information about this program.

N9CHN, Chairman, W9WUU and N9MW Committee members



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# SWAPFESTS

<div><p>2002 WINNER Michael J. Haessler, KB9TG Waupaca, WI.</p><p>Both sponsored by: <b>THE WEST ALLIS RADIO AMATEUR CLUB, INC.</b> P. O. BOX 1072 • MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN 53201</p></div> <div><p>32nd ANNUAL MIDWINTER <b>SWAPFEST</b> WAUKESHA EXPOSITION CENTER WAUKESHA, WISCONSIN SATURDAY JANUARY 8, 2005</p></div>	<div><p><i>HAM IT UP EVERY SPRING!</i> <b>MADISON SWAPFEST</b> Mandt Community Center <i>APRIL 18, 2004</i> 400 Mandt Parkway Stoughton WI Doors open at 8 a.m. Sponsored by MARA/W9HSY P. O. Box 8890 Madison, WI 53708-8890 swapfest Information Line. (608) 245-8890</p></div>	<div><p><b>SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB</b> <b>SWAPFEST 04</b> JULY 10, 2004 (Held every July) <i>American Legion Park</i> <i>Shepard Avenue • Oak Creek, WI</i> (414) 762-3235 Ask for Verne P.O. Box 102 South Milwaukee, WI 53172 e-mail ryatex@aol.com</p></div>		
<div><p><b>SEWFARS SWAPFEST</b> HAM RADIOS • COMPUTERS • ELECTRONICS AMATEUR LICENSE EXAMS  APRIL 25, 2004  Setup starts at 6:00 A.M. For more information, call (262) 742-4903</p></div>	<div><p>The Chicago FM Club presents <b>RADIO EXPO 2004</b> September 18-19, 2004 Lake County Fairgrounds, Rts. 45 and 120 Grayslake, Illinois Free parking • Amateur Exams • Talkin 146.16/76 Info Voice mail and FAX: (708) 457-0966 <a href="http://www.chicagofmclub.org">http://www.chicagofmclub.org</a> P.O. Box 56784, Harwood Heights, IL 60656-0724</p></div>	<div><p>TRI-COUNTY ARC PRESENTS <b>HAMFEST 2004</b>  March , 2005  YOUR SPRING FAVORITE ! <a href="http://www.cmdline.com/tcarc/">www.cmdline.com/tcarc/</a> TCARC 213 Frederick St (920) 563-6381 Fort Atkinson, WI 53538 Evenings</p></div>		
<div><div><p>www.nso9rc.org</p></div><div><p><b>NSORC Fest</b> formerly known as LAMARfest Lake County Fairgrounds • Grayslake, Illinois Radio, Electronic, Computer Swapfest  MARCH , 2005  Grayslake, IL</p></div></div>	<div><p><b>Eau Claire Amateur Radio Club</b> <b>HAMFEST 2004</b> Saturday, September 11, 2004  For Information Contact: Steve Bluem at (715)839-6509 ka9omy@arri.net ECARC P.O. Box 1867, Eau Claire. WI 54702-1867</p></div>	<div><p>The Milwaukee Repeater Club presents <b>AMATEUR RADIO FEST 2004</b> November 2004  Waukesha County Expo Center Forum Buildings For more information, see: <a href="http://www.execpc.com/mrc">http://www.execpc.com/mrc</a> e-mail mrc@mrc91.org or call 1.608.367.3953</p></div>		
<div><p><b>Ozaukee Radio Club</b> <b>23rd ANNUAL RADIO AND COMPUTER SWAPFEST</b> MAY 01, 2004 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. • Circle B Recreation Center Intersection of Highway 60 and County I Exams by Badger Examiners, c/o Gary Sharbuno, 5119 W, Willow Rd., Brown Deer, WI 53222 Swapfest sponsored by the Ozaukee Radio Club W55 N865 Cedar Ridge Drive • Cedarburg WI 53012</p></div>	<div><p><b>Circus City Swapfest</b> Sponsored by the Yellow Thunder Amateur Radio Club Saturday, August 14, 2004 • 7 am—Noon Sauk County Fairgrounds • Baraboo, WI</p><table border="1"><tr><td>Vendors • Concessions Camping • Free Parking Tail Gate Area</td><td>\$4.00 — Advanced \$5.00 — At Gate \$5.00 — 8 foot tables</td></tr></table><p>Steve Schulze, N9UDO • Bill Klinkner, N9KXX (606) 356-2313 • (608) 643-6908/643-6453 <a href="http://www.qsl.net/ytarc/hamfest.htm">http://www.qsl.net/ytarc/hamfest.htm</a>,</p></div>	Vendors • Concessions Camping • Free Parking Tail Gate Area	\$4.00 — Advanced \$5.00 — At Gate \$5.00 — 8 foot tables	<div><p><b>SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB</b> <b>AUCTION</b> <b>Amateur Radio, Computers &amp; Electronics</b> <b>Wed. OCTOBER 6, 2004, 6:00 p.m.</b> <i>American Legion Post 434</i> <i>Shepard Avenue • Oak Creek, WI</i> (414) 762-3235 Ask for Verne P.O. Box 102 South Milwaukee, WI 53172 e-mail: ryatex@aol.com</p></div>
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# BADGER STATE SMOKE SIGNALS

## WEB EDITION — EXTRA PAGES



WA9SAB, 920.563.6381.

### Grafton

Ozaukee Radio Club (ORC) Second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Grafton Multipurpose Senior Center, 1665 7th. Ave., Grafton, Wisconsin [www.qsl.net/orc/](http://www.qsl.net/orc/).

### Green Bay

GREEN BAY MIKE AND KEY CLUB Meetings: Second Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Media Services area of J. M. Science Building at St. Norbert College in DePere. Information: Kevin at [kb9sne@yahoo.com](mailto:kb9sne@yahoo.com).

### Green Lake

GREEN FOX AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Greater Green Lake County area. Meetings: Third Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Green Lake Town Hall, intersection of County Highways K and N.

### Hudson

St. CROIX VALLEY RADIO AMATEURS Meetings: Third Tuesdays, St. Croix County Emergency Government Center, Carmichael Road, Hudson. Short business meeting at 7:30 p.m. followed by program. Talkin: 145.13 MHz. All are welcome!

### Juneau

ROCK RIVER RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Dodge County Administration Building, 127 East Oak Street, Juneau, WI. ARES Nets: 146.64 (-600) Mondays, 7:30 p.m., Saturdays, 7277 KHz, 10:30 a.m.

### Madison

SPACE PLACE AMATEUR RADIO CENTER No meetings. Located on U.W.-Madison campus. Guest operators are welcome to operate the U.W. Space Place Amateur Radio Station, N9UW. Information: Don Michalski, W9IXG, President, (608) 263-4685. Email: [n9uw@sal.wisc.edu](mailto:n9uw@sal.wisc.edu).

### Madison

BADGER AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY University of Wisconsin - Madison/W9YT Meetings: Third Mondays at 7:00 p.m. in UW Union South. Room number posted on the Today in The Union board. Information: Don Michalski, W9IXG, (608) 263-4685. Email: [w9ixg@arrl.org](mailto:w9ixg@arrl.org). Web: <http://www.qsl.net/w9yt>.

### Madison

Madison DX Club, meetings are on every fourth Tuesday of each month; see <http://madisondxclub> for more details.

### Madison

FOUR LAKES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Third Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m., Red Cross Building, 4860 Sheboygan Avenue, Room C, downstairs. First building west of Hill Farms State Office Building.

### Manitowoc

MANITOWOC COUNTY RADIO AMATEURS (ManCoRad) Second Wednesday of each month. Club board meets at 6:30 p.m., and Regular meeting is at 7:30 p.m., at 1105 Fleetwood Drive, 2nd floor (Old County Shop building on northwest side of city.) For Additional information please see our club web-site [www.qsl.net/w9dk](http://www.qsl.net/w9dk) or contact Fred Neuenfeldt, W6BSF, (920) 682-9312. Email: [w6bsf@arrl.net](mailto:w6bsf@arrl.net).

### Marinette WI

#### Menominee MI

Amateur Radio Club Meetings held second Thursday 7:00PM each month BAMC Tenth Avenue Menominee Michigan in the basement. Guests welcome e-mail secretary [ke9ad@arrl.net](mailto:ke9ad@arrl.net)

### Medford

Black River Amateur Radio Association Meetings: Normally the first Thursday of each month. Usual meeting time is 7 PM. Most meetings are held at the Taylor County Courthouse. Directions: Those attending should park in the main courthouse parking lot on the east side of the building, and enter using the main courthouse entrance or the sheriff's dept. entrance. Proceed to the lower level of the courthouse using the stairs or elevator. We meet in the "break room" on the lower level, near the Emergency Government office. Talk-in on the 147.15 repeater (114.8 Hz PL, +600 kHz offset) and 146.52 MHz simplex. Contact: Mike Schoenfuss, N9GHZ, P.O. Box 401, Abbotsford, WI 54405. Phone: (715) 223-3996.

### Menomonee Falls

FALLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. Meetings: Last Wednesdays at Bank One building in Germantown. Doors open 7 p.m. Meeting time: 7:30 p.m. Guests are welcome!

### Menomonie WI

Saturday coffee at Burger King, 544 Main Street, at 9 a.m. Social hour on 4th Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m. at the Depot, 2616 Hills Court, north of Walmart on highway 25 North, in January, March, April, and September through November. Guests welcome!

### Milwaukee

GREATER MILWAUKEE DX ASSOCIATION Meetings: Fourth Monday of month, 7:30 p.m. Contact any GMDXA member, or Gary Schwartz, K9GS, (262) 363-4439. Email: [garyk9gs@arrl.net](mailto:garyk9gs@arrl.net).

### Milwaukee

MILWAUKEE RADIO AMATEURS CLUB Meetings: Last Thursdays, 7:00 p.m. Redemption Lutheran Church, 4057 North Mayfair Road, Wauwatosa, WI. Mailing address: P.O. Box 070695, Milwaukee, WI 53207. Web: <http://www.qsl.net/mrac> . Email: [w9rh@arrl.net](mailto:w9rh@arrl.net).

### Monomomie

RED CEDAR REPEATER ASSOCIATION, INC. Saturday coffee at Hardee's in North Monomomie, corner of Highways 12 and 25 at 9 a.m. Social hour on 4th Tuesdays at 7:30 p.m. at the Peppermill Too, 1414 9th Street in the L-Mart Shopping Center in January, March, April, and September through November. Guests welcome!

### Northeast Area

NORTHEAST WISCONSIN DX ASSOCIATION Meetings quarterly: April 28, Marinette; August 25, Fox Valley; November 10, Green Bay. For specific information about meetings, check <http://home.new.rr.com/newdx/>. Contact us at [w9dxa@arrl.net](mailto:w9dxa@arrl.net).

### Oak Creek

SOUTH MILWAUKEE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Wednesdays, Legion Post #434, Shepard Ave., Oak Creek, WI. In March and October the meetings are turned into Auction Nights. Swapfest July 6, 2002. The club WEB site is [ww.qsl.net/wa9txe](http://www.qsl.net/wa9txe)

### Onalaska

RIVERLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7 p.m., Onalaska Community Center. More information: <http://www.qsl.net/wr9arc/> . Email: [wr9arc@qsl.net](mailto:wr9arc@qsl.net).

### QCWA Chapter 162

QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION (QCWA) Southeastern Wisconsin Chapter 162. Meetings: Third Monday in January, March, May, July, September, and November, 7:30 p.m., usually at Meadows Restaurant, Franksville, WI. Social events: Third Sundays in February, April, June, August, and October. Christmas party: Usually second or third Sunday in December.

### QCWA Chapter 55

QUARTER CENTURY WIRELESS ASSOCIATION (QCWA) Wisconsin Chapter 55 meets the first Saturday of June and October. For information about Chapter 55, contact Ron Yokes, W9BCK, Secretary, 612 N. Pt Washington Road, Grafton, WI 53024-9703. (262) 375-1774. <mailto:roryokes@execpc.com>. Saturday, October 4, 2003, Watertown Moose Club, Watertown, WI.

### Racine

LAKESHORE REPEATER ASSOCIATION Meetings: Last Tuesday, January, April, July, October. American Red Cross Building, 4521 Taylor Ave., Racine, WI.

### Racine

RACINE MEGACYCLE CLUB Meetings: Second Mondays, 7:30 p.m., American Red Cross Building, 4521 Taylor Ave., Racine, WI.

### Appleton

FOX CITIES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Third Mondays, 7 p.m., Columbus Club, 2531 N. Richmond Street, Appleton, WI Information: Pat, K9IK, 920.725.1149. [PLA-tour428@aol.com](mailto:PLA-tour428@aol.com) Web: <http://www.w9zl.ampr.org/>.

### Baraboo

BADGERLAND AMATEUR TELEVISION SOCIETY (BATS) Check BATS Web page: <http://www.shopstop.net/BATS/>

### Baraboo

YELLOW THUNDER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: See the YTARC column elsewhere in this issue for meeting times and locations. For further information: <http://www.qsl.net/ytarc>.

### Dubuque, IA

GREAT RIVER AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: First Monday of each month, 7 p.m. at the Red Cross Center, 2400 Asbury Road. The club serves the tri-state area. On the Web: <http://www.qsl.net/wb0lob/>. Information or questions to: [N0hdc@aol.com](mailto:N0hdc@aol.com).

### Eau Claire

EAU CLAIRE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: 2nd Tuesday - 7 p.m., Eau Claire Parks & Recreation, 1300 First Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54703. All hams and guests welcome. W9EAU repeater 146.91 MHz, tone 110.9 Hz. Information: Jim Staatz, KG9RA, President, P.O. Box 1867, Eau Claire, WI 54702-1867. Phone (715) 838-9108, Email [kg9ra@ecarc.org](mailto:kg9ra@ecarc.org). Web page: <http://www.ecarc.org>

### Fond du Lac

FOND DU LAC AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Second Monday at Moraine Park Technical College, Fond du Lac, WI. Time: 7 p.m. Sunday net: 7:30 p.m. CDT, K9IA repeater, 145.430 - PL 107.2 Information: Jack Heil, KG9IN, 920.922.1413. Email: [kg9in@fdlhams.org](mailto:kg9in@fdlhams.org) Web: <http://www.fdlhams.org>.

### Fort Atkinson

TRI-COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB second Thursday monthly except June to August, 7 p.m., at Dwight Foster Public Library in Fort Atkinson. ARES Net each Wednesday evening at 8 and club net Monday evenings at 8 on 145.49 repeater. Contact: Glenn Eisenbrandt, WA9VYL, 920.563.6502, or John Satterlee,

Rhinelanders  
NORTHWOODS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
Meetings: Third Tuesday of Sept., Nov., Dec., Feb., and April for dinner business meetings at Ella's Restaurant, Jct. of Hwy. 51 and 70, north side of Woodruff, WI. Talkin on Sayner or Tomahawk repeaters. The Northwoods ARC News is on the club web site. <http://www.freeyellow.com/members7/nwarc>.

Sheboygan  
SHEBOYGAN COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
Meetings: Second Tuesdays. 7 p.m., Sheboygan County Red Cross/Boy Scout Building, 2032 Erie Avenue.

Shell Lake  
NORTHLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
Meetings: First Tuesday at the Shell Lake United Methodist Church, Reinhart Drive, Shell Lake, WI. Meeting time: 7 p.m. More information: <http://home.centurytel.net/NorthlandARC/>.

Stevens Point  
CWRA Ltd./UWSP ARC Meetings second Wednesday. of each month at 7:30 pm. Science Building on the UW-Stevens Point Campus, Room A107, Stevens Point, WI. Email: [jglas776@uwsp.edu](mailto:jglas776@uwsp.edu). Webpage: [www.qsl.net/wb9qfv](http://www.qsl.net/wb9qfv).

Superior  
ARROWHEAD AMATEUR RADIO CLUB, INC. Meetings: Second Tuesday at WITC Conference Center, 600 N. 21st St., Superior, WI. Time: 7:30 p.m. Board meetings held before regular meetings.

W.A.R. WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF REPEATERS  
Quarterly meetings of the Wisconsin Association of Repeaters are held at various locations around the State on the second Saturdays of March, June, September and December. Check the WAR web page for meeting announcements and repeater coordination info. Information: <http://www.wi-repeaters.org>.

Watertown  
WATERTOWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
Meetings: First Thursdays of month, 7 p.m., Watertown Public Library, 100 South Water Street.

Waupaca  
WAUPACA AMATEUR RADIO CLUB CQ  
First Tue. Social gathering and Dutch treat luncheon, King's Table, King, WI, on Highway QQ, just south of Highways 10 and 54, west side of Waupaca. Gather at 11 to 11:30. Order at noon. Club business transacted. CQ Third Fri. Social gathering and Dutch treat dinner. Semi-formal, OM and XYL, at one of the better supper clubs in the area. Check: Waupaca 147.39 nets at 8 a.m. or 8:50 p.m. for month's meeting location.

Wausau  
WISCONSIN VALLEY RADIO ASSOCIATION Meetings: First Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. Location varies. Information: 146.64 (-600). <http://home.dwave.net/~wvra/>.

West Allis  
West Allis Radio Amateur Club Second Tues-

day of each month at 7:30 p.m. St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 80th and Lincoln Ave., West Allis. Meetings in basement. Entrance at rear, off alley. Handicapped accessible. [www.warac.org](http://www.warac.org).

West Bend  
WASHINGTON COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Second Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., Washington County Courthouse. Net: Thursdays, 7:30 p.m., 146.73 (-600).

Wisconsin Rapids  
WISCONSIN RAPIDS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB Meetings: Third Wednesdays, 7 p.m., Room 14 of Wood County Courthouse. Talkin: 146.79 (-600) for entry into the building.

## FCC Okays BPL proposal

QST de W1AW  
ARRL Bulletin 5 ARLB005  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT February 12, 2004  
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB005  
ARRL005 FCC Okays BPL proposal

The FCC has unanimously approved a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) to deploy Broadband over Power Line (BPL). The NPRM is the next step in the BPL proceeding, which began last April with a Notice of Inquiry that attracted more than 5100 comments--many from the amateur community. The FCC did not propose any changes in Part 15 rules governing unlicensed devices, but said it would require BPL providers to apply "adaptive" interference mitigation techniques to their systems. An ARRL delegation that included President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, attended the FCC open meeting in Washington, and later expressed disappointment in the FCC action.

"The Commission clearly recognized that the existing Part 15 emission limits are inadequate to stop interference, but it's placing the burden of interference mitigation on the licensed user that's supposed to be protected," said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ.

Sumner said that if the FCC really believed current Part 15 emission limits were sufficient, it would not have had to require that BPL providers institute interference mitigation systems. The FCC has not yet released the actual NPRM, and a presentation by the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology (OET) revealed only its broad outlines. Sumner said the League would not take a formal position until it reviews the full NPRM.

Anh Wride of the OET staff spelled out the scope of the NPRM, which only addresses so-called "access BPL"--the type that would apply radio frequency energy to exterior overhead and underground low and medium-voltage power lines to distribute broadband and Internet service. She said the OET staff believes that interference concerns "can be adequately addressed." Wride said the FCC's BPL NPRM:

\* Applies existing Part 15 emission limits

for unlicensed carrier-current systems to BPL systems. Part 15 rules now require that BPL systems eliminate any harmful interference that may occur "and must cease operation if they cannot," she noted.

\* Requires BPL systems to employ "adaptive interference-mitigation techniques, including the capabilities to shut down a specific device, to reduce power levels on a dynamic or remote-control basis and to include or exclude specific operating frequencies or bands."

\* Subjects BPL providers to notification requirements that would establish a public database to include such information as the location of BPL devices, modulation type and operating frequencies.

\* Proposes guidelines to provide for consistent and repeatable measurement of the RF emissions from BPL and other carrier-current systems.

Mirroring his colleagues' enthusiasm, FCC Chairman Michael Powell called BPL "tremendously exciting." While conceding that BPL has "a long way to go," the chairman said it could be "the great broadband hope for a good part of rural America." Powell also said the FCC's OET has worked very hard to try to "get their hands around" the issue of interference and that the FCC would continue its vigilance in that area.

The FCC is expected to issue the complete Notice of Proposed Rule Making within a few days and will invite comments on it sometime after its publication.

Additional information about BPL and Amateur Radio is on the ARRL Web site, [www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/](http://www.arrl.org/tis/info/HTML/plc/).

NNNN